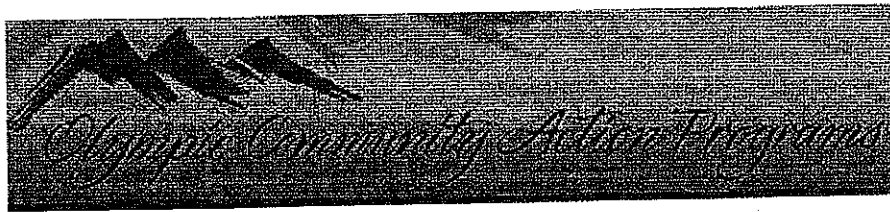


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Investigating Poverty in Clallam County and Jefferson County, WA:

**Community Needs and Gaps Assessment for
Olympic Community Action Programs
May, 2006**

**Prepared by John Korsmo, PhD.,
Director, Northwest Training Institute**

Acknowledgements

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As with any written assessment, this document can not, and does not cover every aspect of life and needs in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. It does, however, provide insight into some of the trends and current issues people are facing, and should serve as a tool for supplementing organizational information about the communities served, and the programs offered.

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Olympic Community Action Programs

Preface

Community Action Agencies (CAA's) are nonprofit private and public organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to take on America's "War on Poverty". CAA's often maintain as their goal to help people to help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency. Today, CAA's make up the nation's largest federally-supported network of organizations whose primary interest is to eliminate poverty, with approximately 1,000 CAA's around the country - serving the poor in every state, Puerto Rico and the Trust Territories, covering 96 percent of the nation's counties.

CAAs are a primary source of direct support for the more than 34 million people who live in poverty in the United States. The majority of CAA program participants have incomes below 75 percent of the federal poverty threshold, or \$9,735 for a family of three (the average family size for the client population).

There are thirty-one CAA's in Washington State, covering each of the state's 39 Counties. For at least thirty-five years these agencies have been providing vital human services to low-income individuals, families and those in need. Hundreds of thousands of people have benefited from these services and have become more self-sufficient in the process.

Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP)

Less than two years after the enactment of federal authorizing legislations, in 1966 a group of local citizens organized the Clallam-Jefferson Community Action Council. These insightful men and women recognized the unmistakable signs of poverty often hidden in the shadows of the majestic Olympic Mountains: Poor health; Hunger; High unemployment; and Homelessness.

These and other needs gained more definition and understanding with the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment conducted by six local individuals who had themselves been victims of poverty. What this survey revealed was not merely a need for the basic life-sustaining food and shelter services, but also a desire for assistance in changing lives and personal circumstances through supportive services such as education and job training opportunities. In short it became clear that, given the right kind of support, people wanted to – and could – become independent of the need for financial assistance from public sources.

The non-profit corporation organized in 1964 rapidly gained the notice and respect of governmental offices and private human services organizations. In the spring of 2000, the corporate name was officially changed to Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) in an effort to help distinguish it apart from being a program of Jefferson County. The organization's mission statement reads:

"It is the mission of Olympic Community Action Programs to help people of the Olympic Peninsula to address their needs of today and to achieve their goals

for tomorrow. We promote self-sufficiency by providing supportive services and developing opportunities for people who lack adequate resources."

In 2000, OlyCAP identified five guiding organizational values to bring unifying direction to the agency:

- **"We value people."**

We treat clients and staff with dignity and in a non-judgmental manner conveying respect. We honor the diversity and individuality of each person, and confidentiality is honored.

- **"We value healthy self-sufficiency."**

We nurture the development of compassionate support systems, and an individual's sense of belonging. We encourage the development of caring relationships through collaborative efforts and responsible partnering. We educate and advocate on behalf of individuals and families who are in need.

- **"We value personal initiative and trust."**

We promote the healthy development of individual accountability. We engage individuals in identifying their personal goals. We empower staff and clients to initiate growth and change.

- **"We value lifelong learning."**

We use modeling and mentoring to support clients and staff in reaching their full potential. We strive toward excellence and encourage creativity and innovation.

- **"We value integrity and wise, innovative, cost-effective use of resources."**

We demonstrate fiscal responsibility and accountability for the resources we manage. We are efficient, collaborative and innovative in our approach to resource management.

These values continue to help shape the organization and assist OlyCAP to fulfill its mission.

Currently, the agency has more than 300 employees with 44 listed programs in Jefferson and Clallam counties. Key OlyCAP programs include Meals on Wheels, six separate energy assistance programs, Head Start preschool, and in-home health care assistance. Nearly 9,500 people in the two counties received services from the organization in 2005. Most of the services the agency provides are geared towards individuals and families below the poverty level. State and federal estimates place about 12,300 people in that category. That means the agency reaches about 75 percent of the people who qualify for help with some supporting service.

The agency's Head Start program is the oldest surviving program, having begun the same year OlyCAP was founded. Over the decades, Head Start has provided early childhood education and care for thousands of young children and their families.

Olympic Community Action Programs

The agency's community support services division provides catchall assistance to many area poor: job training, emergency heating assistance, prescription medicine, transportation and more. Additionally, in 2005 OlyCAP's contributions to the two counties included:

- More than 3,000 people in both counties received energy assistance.
- Helped about 2,000 people with training, child care, transportation, health care or housing to enable them to obtain or keep working.
- Helped more than 300 families – more than 1,200 individuals – through its early childhood education program.
- Helped more than 3,000 households receive emergency energy assistance.
- Helped 1,500 people with emergency aid through the Home Fund.
- Provided more than 8,400 bed nights of emergency shelter, primarily for homeless families.
- Worked with other organizations to develop 15 units of affordable housing for seniors.
- Opened a dental clinic and served more than 1,500 people; cooperated with other organizations to develop the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic.
- Weatherized or improved 76 housing units.
- Managed more than 200,000 hours of volunteer time in support of area food banks, government and non-profit agencies.
- Helped more than 2,000 seniors and disabled individuals maintain their independence.
- Managed food distribution and warehousing services supporting area food banks that collectively offered support to more than 11,000 people.

Executive Summary

This document outlines the trends in needs and services for people in poverty who reside in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, in Washington State. Through review of scores of datasets, interviews and discussions with nearly 100 residents, service providers and service recipients, and observations and interactions in both counties, a detailed assessment has been created. Throughout this document, the reader will find trends in: population growth, demographics, economics, health, substance use, education, crime, housing, childcare, and transportation. Together, the data sets provide information to guide decision making and priority-setting by Olympic Community Action Programs (OlyCAP) into the future.

Perhaps more significant than the quantitative "hard" data from sources such as Census tracks or the Office of Financial Management are the insights offered by those who live and work in the two counties. Based on respondent feedback and information, several areas of focus for the organization have been identified, although the most consistent message and overall finding relates to the ever-growing complexity of each family's needs. As is described in a bit more detail throughout this document, there is a growing level of difficulty in assisting families and individuals to get their needs met based on the convergence of multiple challenges, not the least of which include lack of resources to have basic needs be met (housing, food, healthcare), lack of opportunities for personal growth (to "break out of the cycle of poverty"), complications due to poor health, inadequate nutrition, and substandard housing. While these complexities are not a new phenomenon relating to poverty, they are compounded with a currently shrinking resource pool. As one recipient put it,

"Our numbers are pretty much staying the same. This presents a 'Catch 22' situation, since our funding is related to numbers of people we serve – not to the degree of difficulty, or complexity of needs they have. So, we don't have that many more people – our numbers served is pretty much flat – but, each person we serve is bringing with them multiple needs, and very different and difficult issues that take a lot of our time and resources. At the same time, our budgets are being cut – or at best being kept the same. So what do we do? We have less – or at best, the same amount of money. In many cases we have fewer staff. And, we have these extremely difficult and complex families. It's like the perfect storm..."

This message came across in all of the areas throughout the two counties, and articulated similarly – although in numerous different fashions by not only service providers, but community residents, and recipients of services alike.

Methodology

Olympic Community Action Programs is dedicated to supporting the communities throughout Clallam and Jefferson Counties in northwestern Washington State to eliminate poverty and the negative consequences associated with it. As such, the organization is committed to obtaining good information it can use to guide and shape programming.

In order to create strategies that can influence desirable change related to poverty, it is necessary for communities to understand the symptoms, causes, and effects of poverty as a complex issue. In an effort to know its communities and the strengths and challenges that are presented within them, OlyCAP has prepared this thorough Community Needs and Gaps Analysis, taking into account information (data) from numerous sources. The methodology used for this assessment involved five (5) general steps:

1. **Meta-analysis of Existing Data:** Compilation, review, and analysis of demographic data and trends for both counties from such sources as US Census, Clallam and Jefferson Counties, School Districts, Health Departments, Local Service Providers, Departments of Health and Human Services, and many others. Scores of data exist from a wide range of governmental, service, and education institutions. This step included investigating assessments and reports created by other service providers, as well as previous program reports from OlyCAP. The thorough investigation of multiple reports and assessments helped generate datasets from a wide range of perspectives, over a time period spanning many years.
2. **Focused Group Discussions:** Organized, facilitated discussions relating to community needs, trends, and recommendation for prioritization of resources. Discussions allowed for a representation of cross sections of each community, hearing from service providers, elected officials, law enforcement, healthcare personnel, educators, parents, community residents, service recipients, young adults, seniors, formally educated – and uneducated individuals, people of wealth, and people in poverty. The diversity of the nearly 100 individuals participating in focused group discussions represented the general population of the counties as a whole. In all, nearly 20 hours of focused, group discussions took place. Questions were loosely structured and open-ended in order to illicit in-depth dialogue. Written summaries of each discussion were analyzed for determining recommendations for prioritization of efforts.
3. **One-on-one Discussions:** In-depth interview discussions with a variety of community stakeholders, to asses and analyze individual perspectives alongside perspectives of focus groups. These discussions included people from law enforcement, service providers and agency administrators, accounting for five hours of interviews with five individuals. Questions were loosely structured and open-ended in order to illicit in-depth dialogue.

4. **Internal Organization Assessment:** Survey tool used to investigate staff perceptions of service needs, and quality of services provided, including prioritization and recommendations for change. Completed surveys were obtained from twenty-two (22) staff members. Surveys included both closed-ended, quantitative questions, and open-ended, qualitative questions.
5. **Evaluation and Analysis:** Holistic look at all data sets, evaluation, and determination of recommendations for priority areas within the communities.

Steps 2, 3, and 4 were designed to be community driven, asset-oriented, and inclusive – embodying essential family support principles consistent with the overall operation of Community Action Agencies (Ahsan, Garcia, Samuels, 1995). It was determined that the process itself could be used as a means for building community capacity while identifying its needs. This was achieved by inviting community members to participate in the discussion, and through the inclusion of their voices in this document. The opinions and insight of local community members obtained through this effort will help shape the vision and strategic planning of OlyCAP for the near future.

This assessment focused on Clallam County and Jefferson County, where OlyCAP provides its services. Questions asked in focused group settings, and in one-on-one interviews included:

- What are some emergent challenges facing people in poverty in your community?
- What are some changes or trends you see, or are aware of in terms of quality of life and access to services for people in poverty in your communities?
- Where should OlyCAP prioritize its services? (categorically and geographically)
- What needs do people in poverty in your community have, that are currently unaddressed by service providers?
- What is working well in your community regarding service delivery to people in poverty?

All group and one-on-one discussions and interviews were recorded through flip-charting and researcher notes. Each discussion was then summarized in writing and that information was shared with participants for his or her feedback and the opportunity to add additional information or make clarifying statements. Summaries were then used to identify themes and generalities throughout the two counties, and to identify different needs for particular communities.

"I really appreciate this opportunity to talk about what I see as needs in my own community, and to feel like I am being a part of the group making it better. I wish we could have these kind of [focus group] discussions as a community all the time."

(Port Townsend Resident,
focus group participant, 3/29/06)

Poverty Guidelines

There are numerous interpretations of the term, "poverty" used by different service providers and funding sources in different communities around the country. A commonly accepted guideline of poverty rates is printed in the Federal Registry by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) during the first quarter of each year. The Guideline set forth by DHHS for 2006 is presented in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: 2006 HHS Poverty Guidelines

| Persons in Family or Household | 100% of Poverty Line for 48 Contiguous States and D.C. | 125% of Poverty Line for 48 Contiguous States and D.C. | 100 % of Poverty Line for Alaska | 100 % of Poverty Line for Hawaii |
|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | \$ 9,800 | \$ 12,250 | \$12,250 | \$11,270 |
| 2 | 13,200 | 16,500 | 16,500 | 15,180 |
| 3 | 16,600 | 20,750 | 20,750 | 19,090 |
| 4 | 20,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 23,000 |
| 5 | 23,400 | 29,250 | 29,250 | 26,910 |
| 6 | 26,800 | 33,500 | 33,500 | 30,820 |
| 7 | 30,200 | 37,750 | 37,750 | 34,730 |
| 8 | 33,600 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 38,640 |
| For each additional person, add | 3,400 | 4,250 | 4,250 | 3,910 |

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 15, January 24, 2006, pp. 3848-3849

The Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, or percentage multiples of them (such as 125 percent, 150 percent, or 185 percent), are used as an eligibility criterion by a number Community Action Agencies for federally funded programs, including:

- Community Services Block Grant funded programs
- Head Start
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Community Food and Nutrition Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (for free and reduced-price meals only)
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program
- Weatherization Assistance for Low-Income Persons

Some state and local governments have chosen to use the federal poverty guidelines in some of their own programs and activities. Examples include financial guidelines

Olympic Community Action Programs

for child support enforcement and determination of legal indigence for court purposes. Some private companies (such as utilities, telephone companies, and pharmaceutical companies) also use the guidelines in setting eligibility for their services to low-income persons.

The percentages of people living below the poverty line in Clallam and Jefferson Counties are similar to the national average, although they are a bit higher than the Washington State average. Between 12% and 14.6% of the population of Clallam County are believed to have had an income below the federal poverty rate in 2003, while in Jefferson County the percentage of people living below the federal poverty line was between 11% and 13.6% (US Dept. of Agriculture, 2006). Currently, State and Federal estimates place about 12,300 residents of Clallam and Jefferson Counties below the poverty level (Sequim Gazette, 5/17/06).

The estimates for children below the age of 18 who are living in poverty are more grim, as high as 22.6% in Clallam County and 22.7% in Jefferson County. The State as a whole had an estimated childhood poverty rate of between 15.3% and 16.7% for that same time period. These statistics indicate a disproportionately high percentage of children and adults living at or below the poverty line in both Counties.

I don't ever feel like I am poor, or anything. I guess I don't really think of myself as being in poverty - but I am. I know it is only temporary, though. I need some help now, but not forever. What I am getting from OlyCAP right now will last me a lifetime.

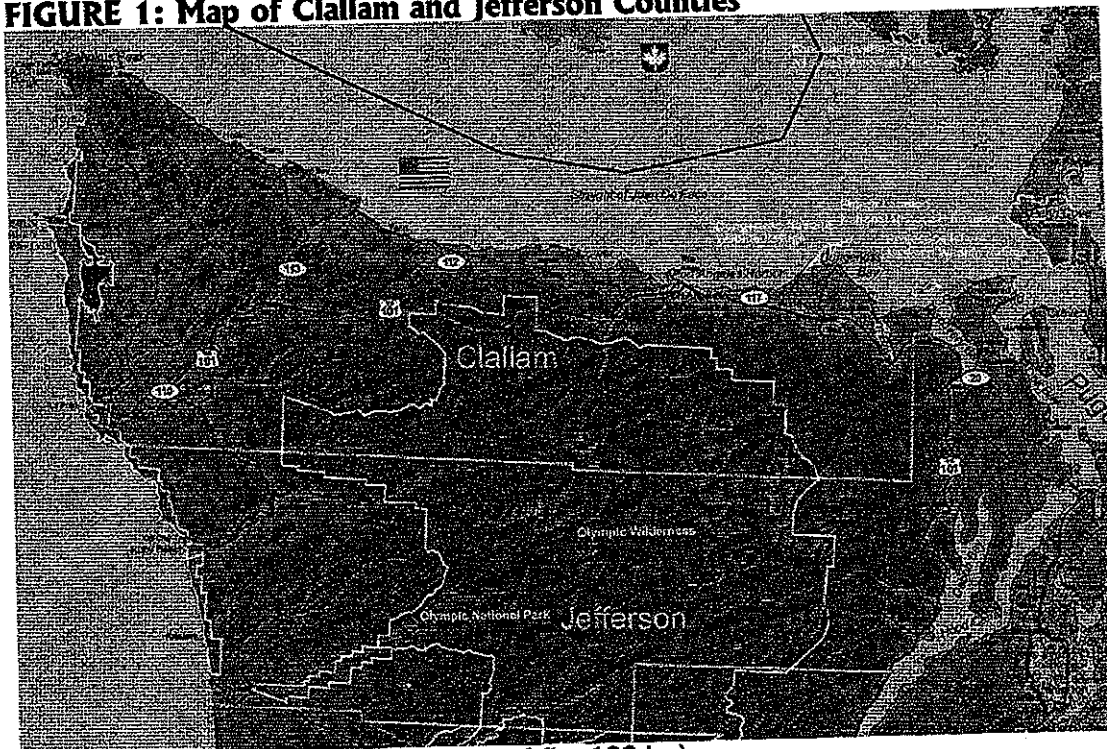
(Focus group participant, 3/9/06)

Characteristics of Clallam and Jefferson Counties

Clallam and Jefferson counties border one another, and together make up much of the Olympic Peninsula in northwestern Washington State, with over 3,500 square miles. Clallam County lies across the northern half of the peninsula, and is home to about 66,800 people (2005 census data, OFM). Just to the South and the East lies Jefferson County, with roughly 27,600 residents (2005 census data, OFM).

The high mountains, rugged coastlines, deep forests, miles of unspoiled rivers, clean air and water, and mild marine climate offer a most unusual combination of environmental attractions. When the cultural, educational, and social amenities available in the cities and towns are considered, along with the range of living styles from small town, to rural, to backwoods, the peninsula becomes a uniquely desirable place to live, work and visit.

FIGURE 1: Map of Clallam and Jefferson Counties



(<http://www.youra.com/maps/100/jeffersonclallam100.jpg>)

Geography of Clallam County

Clallam County occupies the northern portion of the Olympic Peninsula, extending nearly 100 miles along the Strait of Juan de Fuca on its north and more than 35 miles along the Pacific Coast on its west. It has a land area of roughly

1,740 square miles (OFM, 2006) and roughly half of that – including most of the Pacific Shoreline – is designated as part of the nearly million-acre wilderness interior of the peninsula, the Olympic National Park or Olympic National Forest. It is bordered on the east and the south by Jefferson County, out of which it was created in 1854. The county is composed of the traditional lands of the Klallam (for whom it is named), Makah, and Quileute peoples, who continue to play significant roles in county history. Port Angeles has been the county seat since 1890, the year it incorporated and had a population in 2005 of 18,640 (OFM, 2006).

Geography of Jefferson County

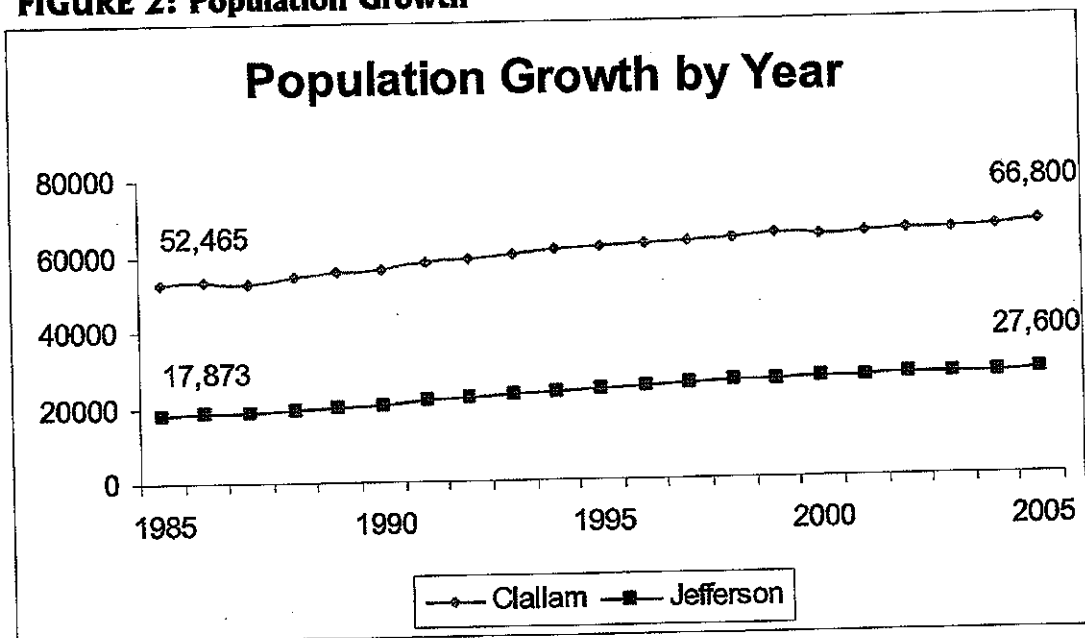
Jefferson County was created by the Oregon Territorial Legislature on December 22, 1852 from a portion of Lewis County. It was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson who, by commissioning the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806), was instrumental in the exploration of the Pacific Northwest. Jefferson County has a total area of 2,184 square miles: 1,814 square miles of land and 369 square miles of water. Approximately 60 percent of the county comprises the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest; another 20 percent is under the jurisdiction of other federal and state agencies. The boundary lines were determined by the Washington Territorial legislature in 1877.

East Jefferson County is at the northwest end of Puget Sound. Port Townsend is the county seat with 8,745 residents in 2005 (OFM, 2006), and lies on a large, protected natural harbor at the northwest end of Admiralty Inlet. All marine traffic entering and leaving Puget Sound goes past this point, and much of Jefferson County's history is in fact a history of Port Townsend, the only incorporated city in the county. The climate at sea level is moderate, with cool dry summers and relatively warm wet winters. Nearly all of the 1,814 square miles is hilly to mountainous. The Olympic Mountains bisect Jefferson County forming a natural barrier to east-west travel and settlement. West Jefferson County, which abuts the North Pacific Ocean, is known locally as "The West End", and is a sparsely populated area with high winter rainfall.

Population

The estimated total population for both Clallam and Jefferson Counties are significantly higher today than they were twenty years ago, with a population in 2005 of 66,800 and 27,600 respectively (OFM, 2006). During the past two decades, there has been a population gain of roughly 27% for Clallam County, and more than 54% for Jefferson County (OFM, 2005). The majority of that growth occurred in the period between 1985 and 1995 however the recent trend is toward very modest growth as can be seen by the near horizontal growth pattern shown in Figure 2. Population growth was at a significant 9% for Clallam County and 15% for Jefferson County for the period between 1995 and 2005, and only at 3% and 4% respectively for the period between 2002 and 2005. That rate dropped to only 1% and 2% respectively for the growth between 2004 and 2005.

FIGURE 2: Population Growth



There are three incorporated cities in Clallam County, which together are home to nearly 40% of the County's population. The largest of the cities is Port Angeles, with a population of 18,640. The other two cities, Sequim and Forks house 4,730 and 3,125 respectively (OFM, population estimates for 2005).

In 2005, nearly 32% of Jefferson County's population lived in the county's only incorporated city, Port Townsend. Home to 8,745 people, Port Townsend serves as the hub of activity for the County (OFM, population estimates for 2005).

Race and Ethnicity

Over the past several decades, the populations of Washington and the United States as a whole have become increasingly racially and ethnically diverse. While

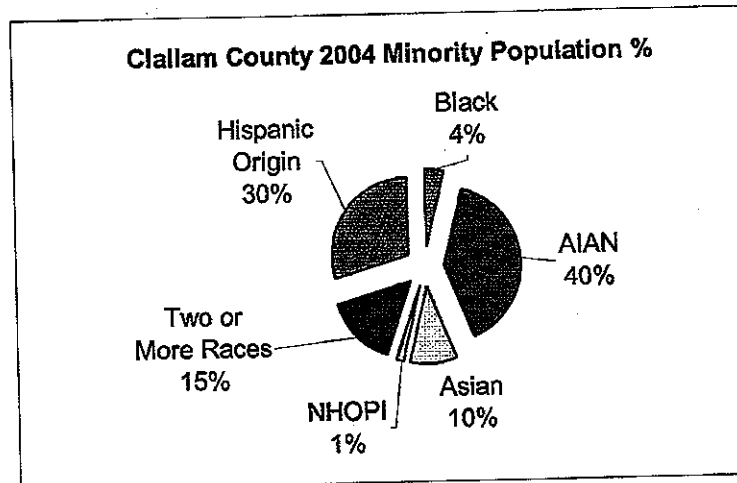
Clallam and Jefferson Counties are more diverse now than they were many years ago, they remain less diverse than the state or national averages, at roughly 89.1% and 92.2% White, respectively. These percentages are down from 92% and 95% in 1990, but still significantly higher than the 81.8% White population for the state as a whole.

The largest minority group in the two counties has historically been the American Indian population, but a significant increase in the Hispanic population in the area between 1990 and 2000 (92% increase in Clallam County and 122% increase in Jefferson) has lessened the difference in percentage of populations for those two ethnic categories. In Clallam County, the number of people identifying themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native constituted 2.3% of the County's population in the 2000 census, while those identifying as persons of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 2.1% of the general population. In Jefferson County the population was 5.1% American Indian and 3.4% Hispanic in 2000. The 2000 census also showed slightly more than 1% of the population identifying as Asian for both counties.

On the 2000 Census questionnaire, "race" and "Hispanic ethnicity" are listed as separate questions. A person of Hispanic ethnicity is anyone who identifies with that social group, and so can be of any race. This can make data on race and ethnicity difficult to interpret. Race data is also difficult to compare from Census to Census because categories have changed over time. For example, the 2000 Census was the first to offer the category "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," and those people could have responded in a number of different ways in previous years. The 2000 Census also marked the first time that respondents were allowed to select more than one racial category. On earlier Censuses, multiracial individuals were asked to choose a single racial category, or respond as "Some Other Race."

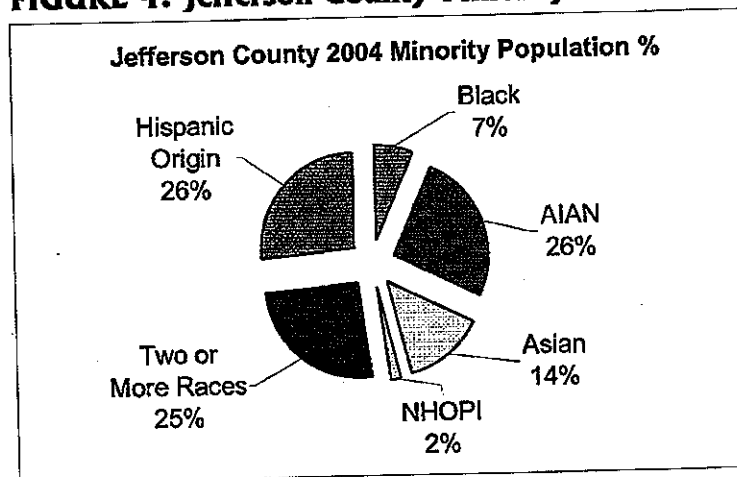
Figures 3 - 4 show a breakdown for the minority populations in Clallam and Jefferson Counties in 2004. Clallam County had significantly higher percentage of American Indian or Alaska Natives (40% of minority population), followed by people of Hispanic origin (30% of minority population). In Jefferson County, the minority population was spread a bit more evenly, with American Indian or Alaska Native individuals, those of Hispanic origin, and those reporting two or more races each making up roughly a quarter of the minority population.

FIGURE 3: Clallam County Minority Breakdown



(AIAN: American Indian and Alaska Native, NHOPI: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Note: Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race)

FIGURE 4: Jefferson County Minority Breakdown



(AIAN: American Indian and Alaska Native, NHOPI: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Note: Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race)

Age and Sex

As of 2005, of the 39 counties in Washington only one, Pacific County, had a higher percentage of its population (23.5%) age 65 and over than Clallam and Jefferson Counties, with 22.3% and 22.4% respectively (OFM estimates, 2005). In comparison to the state as a whole (11.4%), Clallam and Jefferson Counties are comprised of significantly older citizens. This trend, however, is not a new one. While the population rates for people 65 and older have been steadily increasing over the past decade, rates have been higher than 20% since the 1990 census. Similarly, the median age of both counties has steadily increased over that same timeframe. Currently, the median age for Clallam County is 46.1 years and the median for Jefferson County is 48.6 years. In 1990, the median age of each county was 38.4 and 35 years, respectively. In the 15 years since 1990, the median age of Clallam County raised from 32 to 46 years old while Jefferson County rose from 38 to 49 years old. In 1990, Clallam and Jefferson Counties

had a combined population of seniors 85 years and older of 748. By 2005, this population had risen nearly 240% to 2,545. The changes in the ages of the populations living in each county are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

Figure 5: Clallam County Population Change by Age

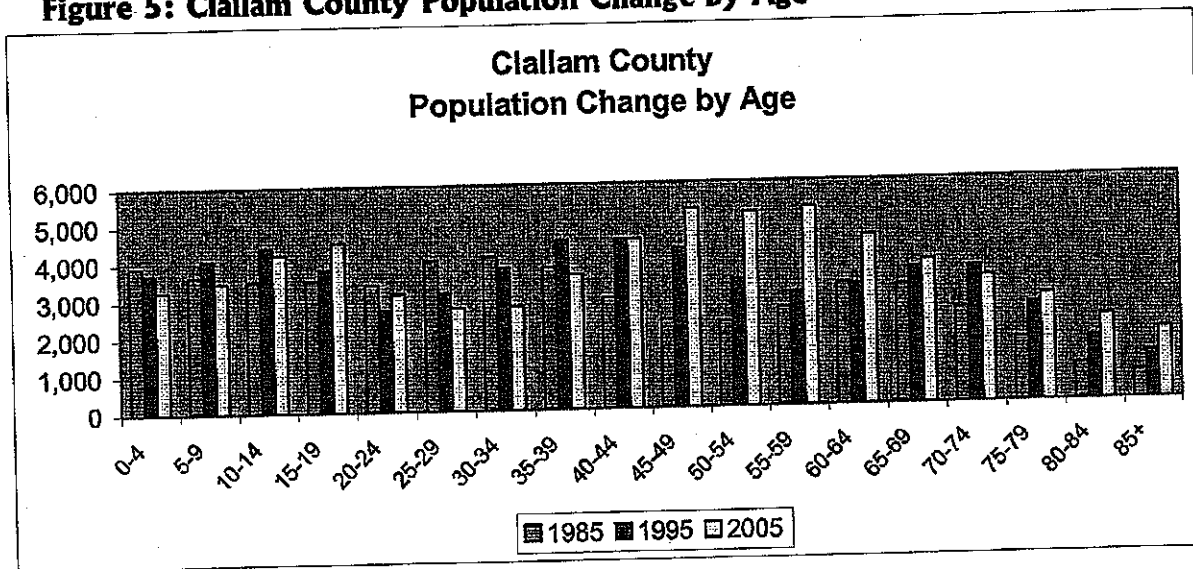
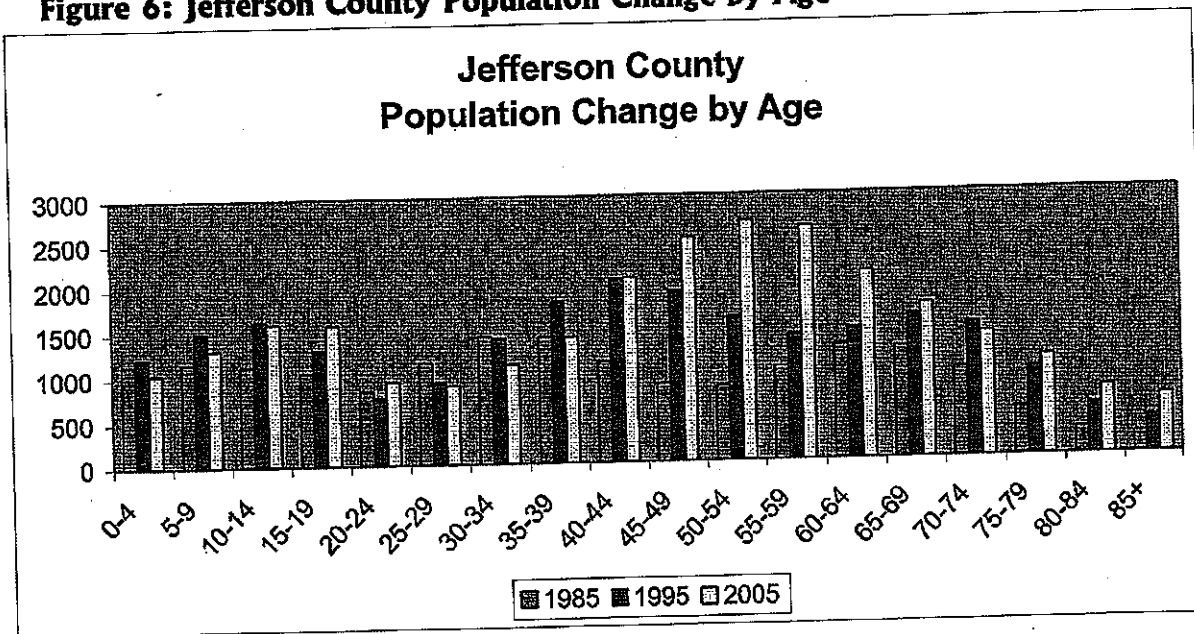


Figure 6: Jefferson County Population Change by Age



In contrast to the increases in the older population, the number of children under 10 years old in both counties has dropped by nearly 12%, from 10,362 in 1990 to 9,119 in 2005. The age group that is currently the least represented in both counties is that of young adults, 25 to 29 (3,649 people). In both counties combined, there is more than 10% higher population of senior citizens over the age of 70 (16,071) than there are people between the ages of 25 and 40

(14,609). The increasing elderly population is having a noticeable impact on the population growth in both counties.

Natural increase – the excess of births over deaths – is an important component of measuring and forecasting population change. Natural increase generally accounts for at least half of the state's annual growth, although due to the aging of the population and the low birth rates in the area, there has actually been a natural decrease- an excess of deaths over births – in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Forecasts for 2005 indicate a natural decrease of 197 people in Clallam County and a decrease of 91 people in Jefferson County. With increasing numbers of elderly persons moving to both counties, and as the population continues to age we can expect natural decline to continue. Unless these losses in population are offset by younger populations migrating to the area, or through increased birth rates, the overall population in the area will decrease.

The gender balance throughout the counties is relatively even. In Clallam, 50.5% of the population is female, while in Jefferson females comprise 50.3%. Clallam County has more males than females for all ages between birth and 29 years, while women outnumber men in the older ages. In Jefferson County, there are more males to females in 2 different general age ranges, 15 to 34 and 65 to 74. In both counties, the gender discrepancies are minimal, with the exception of the oldest age category of 85 and older. In this category, the population is 64.4% female. Figures 7 and 8 show 2005 populations of Clallam and Jefferson Counties by age and sex.

Figure 7: Clallam County 2005 Population by Age and Sex

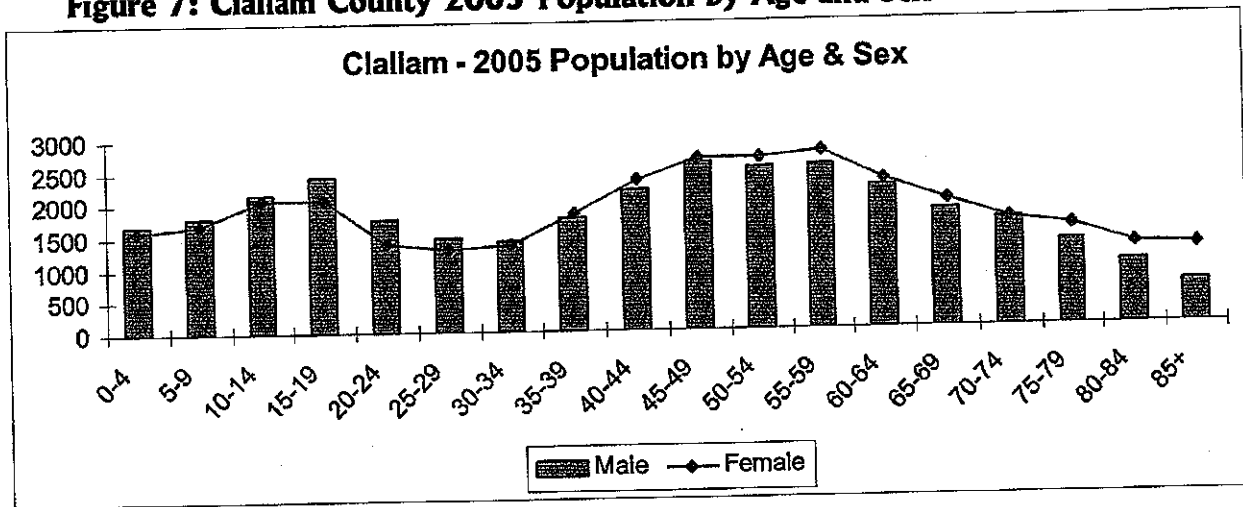
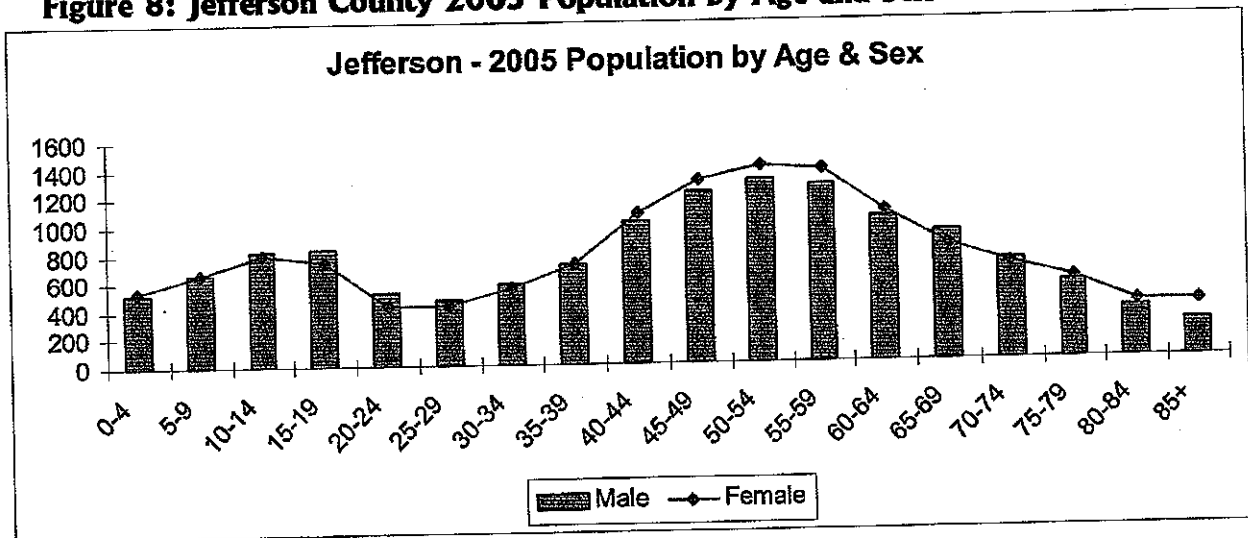


Figure 8: Jefferson County 2005 Population by Age and Sex



Economy

History

In order to better understand the current circumstances influencing the local economy of Clallam and Jefferson Counties, it will be useful to present a brief history of the region. The history of economic development in the two counties has largely been driven by the abundant natural resources in the area. Of course long before White exploration and settlement, the region's agriculture and wildlife greatly influenced the local quality of life for the numerous indigenous tribes in the region. Native Americans had been engaging in commerce on the Olympic Peninsula for generations. In what is now Jefferson County, the Hoh, Quillayute, Quinault, and Queets utilized their proximity to rivers and the ocean for fish, shellfish, and ocean mammals, and supplemented that with roots, berries, birds and game. Fishing and fur trading are believed to be the first industries in Clallam County. The Makah Indians hunted and fished around what is now Neah Bay. That which they could not use themselves was traded with the Columbia River Indians to the south and Northern or Kake Indians across the strait.

White exploration is believed to have begun in July of 1775, although White settlement was not prominent until 1851. By 1852 the Washington Territory was created, and the area surrounding Port Townsend was the seat of the first territorial government in the area. Jefferson County was created in December of 1852. At that time it included all of what are now Jefferson and Clallam Counties. In 1854, Jefferson County was partitioned, and Clallam County was created.

Dairy farming was among the first pursuits of County settlers, but the abundance of old growth trees spawned a prosperous logging industry. Fur trading by White settlers began in the 1860's when the Hudson's Bay Company established headquarters at Freshwater Bay. By the 1890's, the packing and canning industry became a major provider of jobs throughout Clallam County. Though initially focused on salmon canning, it later expanded to include a variety of clams, which were abundant along the coast. Settlers from the Midwest brought with them skills and tools for working the land, and the rich soils of the region supported a burgeoning agriculture/farming industry whose principal products included potatoes, grains, dairy products, beef and pork. By the 1870's enough cattle were introduced to the area to start the first commercial dairy in the Washington Territory.

During that same time period, timber harvesting was becoming a major industry, spawning development of lumber mills and logging camps. Growth in the local milling industry continued through the 1880's. The prosperous lumber sector fueled explosive expansion of Port Townsend area businesses, including many of the homes and other establishments that today represent the city's Victorian-era historic district.

Like logging and lumber, paper and pulp have been vital to the local economy, providing significant employment between 1927 to current times. It was upon the lumber and wood products, as well as the paper and allied products industry that Clallam and Jefferson Counties built their economic base. The industries stood a test of time by surviving the Great Depression, however over time the industry has

endured a pounding. The national recession of the early 1970's and inflation of the mid-to late 1970's hit the industries hard. The situation was compounded years later by two additional national recessions in the early 1980's.

Today, industries built around lumber and forestry continue to provide the bulk of goods-producing jobs in Clallam County. The markets for lumber and wood products, however, remain volatile. Various domestic and international strains and challenges to the industry will continue to affect the viability of lumber-related industries.

More recently, retirement and tourism have emerged as growth industries throughout the region. Today, Jefferson County's economy has evolved from one dependent on a single industry, to a much more diversified economy. Even as recently as 1993, the major employers in the County were associated with timber. By 1998, the economy revolved around five broadly defined industries: local government, food services, paper and allied products, tourism and recreation, and services such as legal and health services. Clallam County is also becoming a retirement center of some note. In recent years, the number of retirees coming to the area has risen dramatically.

Employment and Training Opportunities

The employment trends in Clallam and Jefferson Counties reflect the historical changes in economic powers of the region. As the economy moves away from being almost solely reliant on the lumber industry, there are increasing numbers of employment opportunities in service and other sectors.

The current and forecasted job market can be looked at in terms of level of education and preparation required for the jobs; long preparation, middle-level preparation, short preparation and, little preparation. Despite higher pay, just slightly more than 15% of area employees have jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher. In fact, the largest of the four groups, "little preparation", is also the lowest paid on average. While making up about 43% of the workforce in 2005, they averaged \$23,328 per year. The difference between the average salaries for someone working in the "little preparation" category compared to someone in the "short preparation" category is 49%, jumping to an average annual income of \$34,744 (Olympic Consortium, 2006). Occupations falling under the category of "Little Preparation" require less than one month of training – usually on the job. Occupation titles, annual growth rate, and their average wage (2005) for each category are provided in Tables 2 – 5:

TABLE 2: Occupations with Little Preparation

| | Average Annual Growth Rate | Average Total Openings | Estimated Average Wage, March 2005 |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| LITTLE PREPARATION: Less than one month job training, usually on the job | | | |
| Occupational Title (Examples) | | | |
| Billing and Posting Clerks and Machine Operators | 2.6% | 29 | \$25,290 |
| Child Care Workers | 2.3% | 121 | \$18,418 |

Olympic Community Action Programs

| | | | |
|--|------|-----|----------|
| Home Health Aids | 2.9% | 17 | \$19,112 |
| Janitors | 2.3% | 95 | \$23,718 |
| Landscaping and Grounds-keeping Workers | 2.4% | 59 | \$23,459 |
| Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants | 2.7% | 69 | \$22,801 |
| Office Clerks, General | 1.9% | 124 | \$25,606 |
| Personal and Home Care Aides | 2.6% | 65 | \$20,445 |
| Receptionists and Information Clerks | 2.6% | 59 | \$20,650 |
| Security Guards | 2.6% | 30 | \$26,742 |
| 2005 Average Annual Wage | | | \$23,328 |

TABLE 3: Occupations with Short Preparation

| SHORT PREPARATION: One to twelve months of training on the job, through an employer or institutional instruction, or a combination | Average Annual Growth Rate | Average Total Openings | Estimated Average Wage, March 2005 |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Occupational Title (Examples) | | | |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks | 2.0% | 86 | \$31,628 |
| Construction Laborers | 2.8% | 37 | \$38,678 |
| Dental Assistants | 3.3% | 48 | \$25,443 |
| Medical Assistants | 2.9% | 19 | \$25,470 |
| Roofers | 3.0% | 12 | \$41,035 |
| Sales Reps, Wholesale and Mfg., Ex. Tech. and Scientific Products | 2.4% | 28 | \$52,856 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer | 1.8% | 48 | \$35,709 |
| 2005 Average Annual Wage | | | \$34,744 |

TABLE 4: Occupations with Mid-Level Preparation

| MID-LEVEL PREPARATION: None to four years of training on the job, through an employer or institutional instruction, or a combination, including apprenticeships, certificates, diplomas, or associate degrees | Average Annual Growth Rate | Average Total Openings | Estimated Average Wage, March 2005 |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Occupational Title (Examples) | | | |
| Automotive Body and Related Repairers | 2.8% | 14 | \$39,565 |
| Carpenters | 2.7% | 126 | \$43,419 |
| Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors | 2.8% | 18 | \$30,541 |
| Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists | 2.8% | 32 | \$28,750 |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 2.6% | 21 | \$36,379 |
| Massage Therapists | 3.0% | 15 | \$43,601 |
| Medical Secretaries | 3.0% | 37 | \$27,928 |
| Registered Nurses | 2.7% | 98 | \$57,584 |
| 2005 Average Annual Wage | | | \$45,435 |

TABLE 5: Occupations with Long Preparation

Olympic Community Action Programs

| LONG PREPARATION: Four years or more of academic work, bachelor's degree or higher; may require additional work experience | Average Annual Growth Rate | Average Total Openings | Estimated Average Wage, March 2005 |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <u>Occupational Title (Examples)</u> | | | |
| Accountants and Auditors | 2.5% | 33 | \$58,399 |
| Child, Family, and School Social Workers | 2.9% | 13 | \$43,101 |
| Computer Programmers | 4.9% | 37 | \$69,748 |
| Computer Software Engineers, Applications | 5.0% | 13 | \$57,947 |
| Construction Managers | 2.7% | 17 | \$95,617 |
| Lawyers | 3.5% | 21 | \$90,407 |
| Mental Health Counselors | 3.3% | 15 | Unavailable |
| Physical Therapists | 3.0% | 12 | \$63,883 |
| Veterinarians | 4.5% | 12 | \$64,909 |
| 2005 Average Annual Wage | | | \$61,561 |

The economy in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties is greatly influenced by seasonal and cyclical factors. Employment in tourism and resource based industries have a high degree of seasonal and cyclical unemployment. Consequently, the average unemployment rate is frequently above the state and national average. In fact, from the mid-1970's until as recently as 2002, the unemployment rate in this region was commonly more than 2% higher than the state average. During 2003, however, unemployment rates began to change for the better in the region, and as of March 2006, the unemployment rate of Clallam County was 5.2, only slightly above the state average of 5.0%. The rate in Jefferson County was actually half a percentage point below the state average, at 4.5%.

A changing economic infrastructure and a growing mailbox economy spawned by the number of retirees moving to the area are both contributing to this change. The term "mailbox economy" refers to the population of a particular area whose primary source of income is derived from a source other than wages – typically through social security, Medicare, or some form of retirement dividends.

The six largest employment sectors in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, in terms of wages paid in 2005 were Government, Retail, Manufacturing, Health Care, Construction, and Accommodations. In Clallam County, the Agriculture sector is the seventh largest sector, while in Jefferson County the seventh largest sector is Professional and Technical Services. Table 6 shows the comparison of the leading wage-earning sectors in each county, with Government being the largest sector in both counties.

TABLE 6: Principal Wage Generating Sectors, 2005

Olympic Community Action Programs

| Sector | % of Wages, Clallam | % of Wages, Jefferson | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Government | 37.3% | 29.9% | local, state, federal |
| Retail | 13.0% | 8.3 | merchandise, food, autos |
| Manufacturing | 8.7% | 11.3% | wood products, transportation |
| Health Care & Social Services | 8.6% | 13.7 | ambulatory, nursing |
| Construction | 7.2% | 7.9% | specialty trade, buildings |
| Accommodations/ Food Services | 4.9% | 7.0 | food service, lodging |
| Agriculture | 2.9% | 1.2% | forestry & logging |
| Professional & Technical Services | 2.6% | 3.9% | no details provided |

Between 2004 and 2005, Clallam and Jefferson Counties experienced job growth in goods-producing and service-providing sectors, particularly in the areas of manufacturing, construction, trade, transportation, utilities, and government (Workforce Explorer, 2005). That marked the fifth consecutive year with growth in those sectors. In Clallam County, the manufacturing, construction and natural Resources industries added 310 jobs while the Services-Providing sector added 560 positions. In Jefferson County, there was an increase in goods-producing employment of 140 jobs, with 110 of those in construction. Services-providing employment was up by 220 positions during that same year.

Participants involved in focus groups and interviews for the creation of this report consistently cited a need for increased employment preparation and training services. There are, however, several institutions throughout the two counties that offer job skills development and employment support programming. Some of the organizations that hold as at least part of their principal programmatic missions to assist people in obtaining skills and preparation for employment include:

The Olympic Consortium – works in concert with the Olympic Workforce Development Council, and serves as the regional job training organization that oversees the Workforce Investment Act's activities in Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Among the main functions of the consortium are assessment, local offices of state agencies, educating and certifying eligible training providers, workforce development policy making and certifying Work Source Career Development Centers, including one in Jefferson County.

North Olympic Peninsula Skill Center – a vocational training center in Port Angeles that is a collaborative effort involving Peninsula College and 5 Clallam County public schools. The Skill Center provides an opportunity for students between the ages of 16 and 21 to receive career training as part of their public education with no cost to the student. The NOPSC prepares students with the academic and work skills to successfully enter the job market or advanced education/training.

Peninsula College - Peninsula College offers two degrees intended to transfer to a baccalaureate institution, the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science, and is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools & Colleges. Peninsula College also offers twenty Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree programs, eleven one-year certificates and many short-term certificates. Peninsula College provides educational opportunities in the areas of academic transfer, professional/technical, basic skills, and continuing education.

Classes in the Arts & Sciences are the principal elements of the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. These two degrees provide a foundation for continued study toward a bachelor's degree. Professional-technical classes provide instruction for entry or re-entry into the workforce, enhancement of current skills, or college transfer.

Peninsula College has recently received approval to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Applied Management Degree, with the program beginning in fall 2007. The BAS degree in Applied Management builds on students' existing AAS degree by adding the junior and senior years to complete a bachelor's degree. The BAS degree has been developed to meet the employment needs of the Olympic Peninsula and will help to provide students with the skill set needed to move into management or supervisory positions within their current organization as opportunities for promotions arise.

Peninsula College anticipates that 25 to 35 students will enroll during the first year and that more will enroll in subsequent years. Currently, the college enrolls roughly 10,400 students, and on average 30% are enrolled full time.

Washington State University Extension/Higher Education Consortium - as part of the Connections Project, this consortium promotes collaboration between Washington State's 32 community and technical colleges and the University of Washington by improving access to upper-division courses and programs; supporting students' transition from community colleges to the UW; creating greater articulation of existing courses and programs; and ensuring that educational planning between the community college system and the UW is coordinated, strategic, and systemic.

The Jefferson County consortium was formed to provide access to educationally under-served communities in Jefferson County through a cooperative approach to providing upper-division, graduate degree programs, and continuing professional education. Partners in this effort include Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University and Evergreen State College.

Additionally, OlyCAP provides a range of employment training and support programming, having enrolled 1965 individuals in employment training classes in

2005. Other community-based organizations also provide classes and training to their members and to the public as well.

Housing

The housing market throughout the country has been on an upward swing for several years, with housing production very strong throughout all of 2005. In fact, total starts, total permits, and total completions are the highest since the 1970s. Single-family statistics are at near-record levels: both single-family starts and completions are the third highest ever. There has been much speculation of late about how long this trend will last, and indeed projections and predictions are being made that a slowing trend is imminent.

According to the Office of Financial Management, as of April 1 2005, Clallam and Jefferson Counties had 33,048 and 15,644 housing structures respectively. This represents an increase by 7.7% in Clallam County and 10.6% in Jefferson since April 1 2000, outpacing the overall population growth in both counties. Even while home building seems to be ahead of population growth, housing prices continue to rise.

The housing costs in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties have been on the rise for several years. After first quarter of 2006, the median home prices were \$216,500 and \$327,900, respectively. This marks a 23.3% increase in Clallam County, and a 16.6% increase in Jefferson County since just after first quarter, 2005 (Washington Center for Real Estate Research, 2006). Three quarters of residents owned their home in Jefferson County in 2000, and about 20% of those people spent more than 35% of their income on housing. Roughly 40% of renters spent more than 35% of their income on housing.

Housing generally occupies the single greatest share of household budget. Access and availability of affordable housing is critical for people to remain secure and stable. In 2000, 50% of families in Clallam County earning the county's median income were paying 34.7% of their income to rent. This was the highest rate in the state at the time. As reported in the Clallam County Community Health Report in June 2002, housing affordability has been on the decline in the county since 2000.

Housing Affordability Index measures the ability of a family to carry the payments on a median price home in any particular area. When the index is 100 there is a balance between the ability to pay for housing and the actual cost of housing. In other words, higher indexes indicate housing is more affordable. Statewide, the Affordability Index is 99.3 after the first quarter of 2006. For Clallam County the Index is slightly less, at 98.3, however Jefferson County is significantly less at 67.3 – which is much less than its Index of 82.2 in 2000 (Washington Center for Real Estate Research, 2006).

As stated previously, the median household income in both counties averaged significantly less than the 2004 State average of \$51,762 per year (WSCRRN, 2005). In Clallam County, the median household annual income was \$41,108 (20.6% less than State average), which is slightly less than the \$41,801 (19.2% less than State average) per year average in Jefferson County. This median salary does not keep pace with the median home costs in each county. Assuming a 10%

down payment, and an interest rate of 6.2% over a 30-year loan, calculated monthly, mortgage payments for the median home prices in each county would range from \$1,200 to \$1,800 per month. Those monthly rates represent 35% of the average salary in Clallam County, and 52% in Jefferson County.

In Washington State, the fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment was \$757 in 2005. In order to afford that level of housing costs and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household would need to earn \$2,522 monthly, or \$30,268 annually (NLIHC, 2006). Assuming a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a wage of \$14.55 per hour.

There are very limited options for emergency and low-income housing in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Section 8 housing has extensive waiting lists in both counties, and throughout each county, lack of affordable housing was one of the most frequently sighted concerns of all respondents participating in the community focus groups and interviews used for this study. Participants expressed grave concern over the skyrocketing housing costs, and the adverse affects those costs may have on the counties. There was a general sense that the local economies and pay scale are not able to keep pace with the cost of living – specifically the cost of purchasing a home.

Food and Nutrition

With housing taking a disproportionate and therefore unhealthy bite out of families' incomes, other aspects of their domestic budgets are squeezed. Furthermore, the last 12 months of unprecedented high energy costs, inclusive of the gasoline required to take workers to their jobs, mean meeting a families' nutritional needs has become even harder.

Inability to have "basic needs" met was among the most commonly cited issues of concern among the respondents and participants in the community focus groups and on-on-one interview sessions used in this study. As is the case with many services, it can be difficult to accurately track how much food is distributed to needy families throughout the counties. This is due in part to reporting "errors", as not all organizations that contribute food and/or meals to those in need report the amounts distributed.

Food Banks funded through the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005 reported serving 2,236 new, and 7,505 returning households in Clallam County, while 4,259 new and 25,385 returning households were served in Jefferson County. Figures 9 through 12 show the breakdown of distribution in each county for that timeframe.

Figure 9: New Food Bank Clients, 7/1/04 – 6/30/05

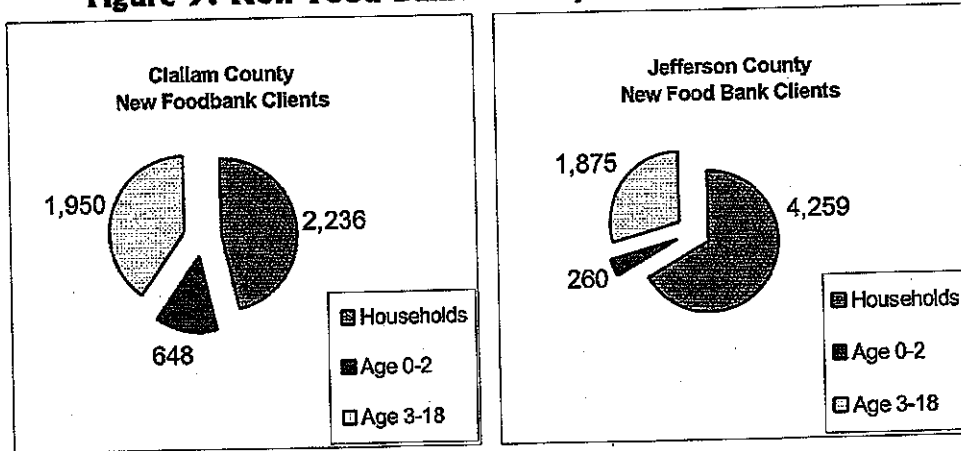


FIGURE 10: Returning Food Bank Clients, 7/1/04 – 6/30/05

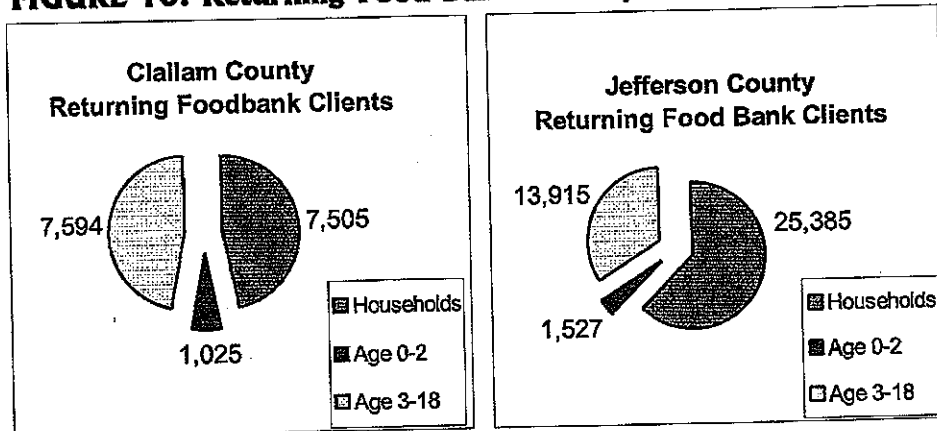


FIGURE 11: Clallam Food Bank Usage 7/1/04 – 6/30/05

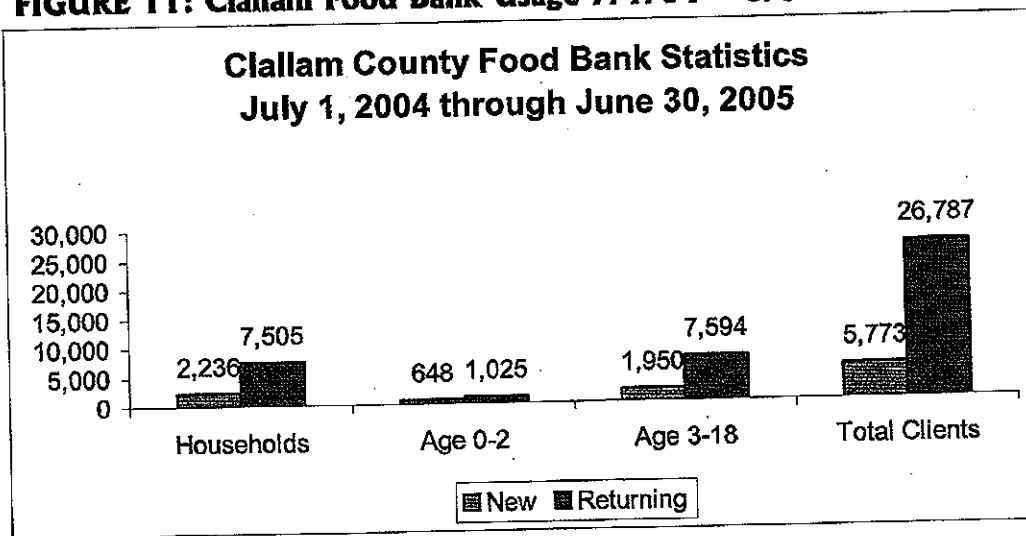
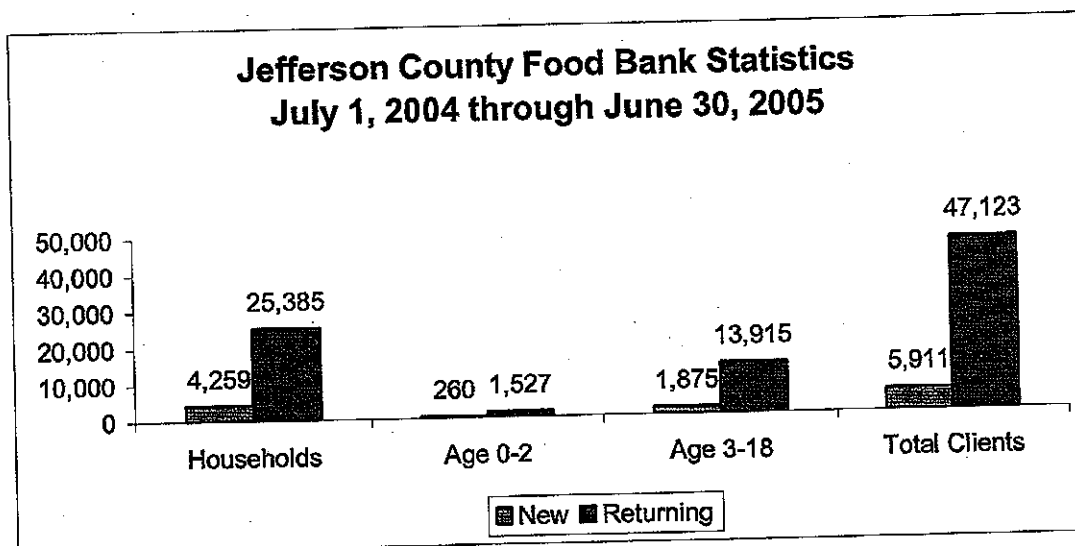


FIGURE 12: Jefferson Food Bank Usage 7/1/04 – 6/30/05



Food banks are generally designed to provide supplemental foods to families in need. Staff, volunteers, and users of food banks in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties, however, discussed in focus groups the growing tendency of families relying on the food banks as their principal resource for food. Families are "hopping" between food banks that they know operate on different days, or at different times. The general sense was that people are not "taking advantage" of the food availability, but rather are in greater need of food.

Nearly 45% of all school children in Clallam County were enrolled in the free and reduced meals program in 2005. Percentages throughout the county varied between school districts, ranging from a low of 34% in the Sequim School District to a high of 64% in the Quillayute School District. Just over 40% of school children in Jefferson County were enrolled in the free and reduced meals program in 2005, ranging from a low of 38% in Chimacum School District to a high of 96% in Queets-Clearwater School District. The State average is just above 38%.

TABLE 7: Clallam County Free and Reduced Meals

| Public School Districts | Oct-05 Enrollment | Oct-05 Free | Oct-05 Reduced | Total | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| Port Angeles School District | 4,478 | 1,527 | 453 | 1,980 | 44% |
| Crescent School District | 181 | 68 | 12 | 80 | 44% |
| Sequim School District | 2,930 | 668 | 324 | 992 | 34% |
| Cape Flattery School District | 534 | 286 | 55 | 341 | 64% |
| Quillayute Valley School District | 1,222 | 650 | 135 | 785 | 64% |
| Clallam County Total | 9,345 | 3,199 | 979 | 4,178 | 45% |

TABLE 8: Jefferson County Free and Reduced Meals

| Public School Districts | Oct-05 Enrollment | Oct-05 Free | Oct-05 Reduced | Total | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| Queets Clearwater School District | 25 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 96% |
| Brinnon School District | 70 | 35 | 9 | 44 | 63% |
| Quilcene School District | 286 | 104 | 34 | 138 | 48% |
| Chimacum School District | 1,235 | 325 | 138 | 463 | 38% |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Port Townsend School District | 1,526 | 421 | 174 | 595 | 39% |
| Jefferson County Total | 3,142 | 905 | 359 | 1,264 | 40% |

Transportation

Clallam and Jefferson Counties each have their own public transit system, and a combination of established bus routes and vanpool options are available. However, given the rural nature of the area, the infrequency of the routes makes getting to appointments or to and from work via public transportation challenging for most county residents. Consistently over the past several years, residents have identified vehicle maintenance, auto insurance, and fuel costs as one of their ongoing needs. With average fuel costs now exceeding \$3.00 per gallon, expenses associated with travel and commuting are even more difficult to overcome.

The area was awarded several Competitive Public Transportation grants for 2005 - 2007 from Washington State Department of Transportation. The grants include:

- \$150,000 in operating funding assistance to sustain a fixed route service for the general public in downtown Sequim.
- \$107,289 in capital funding for two 30' low floor accessible transit coaches with fare boxes and radios for transportation services in Clallam County (WSDOT will award \$388,711 for this project.)
- \$211,200 for the purchase of four 15 to 18-passenger buses for transportation services in Clallam County.
- \$64,000 in capital funding for the purchase of two 15 to 18-passenger buses for transportation services in Clallam County (WSDOT will also award \$41,200 in FTA-5309 funds to this project.)
- \$22,627 for purchase of handheld wireless vehicle inspection devices and related equipment for services in Jefferson County.
- \$342,046 in operating funding to sustain bus transportation services for general public and persons with special needs on Highway 101 between Forks and Amanda Park.
- \$211,225 in operating funding assistance to sustain fixed route, employment options, and intercity bus transportation services for the general public and persons with special needs in Clallam County and the Tri-area vicinity of Jefferson County.
- \$333,750 in operating funding assistance to sustain dial-a-ride transportation services for employment access for persons with special needs in Jefferson County.
- \$200,000 in operating funding assistance to sustain and expand fixed route and inter-city bus transportation services and provide employment options for the general public and persons with special needs in Jefferson County.
- \$38,434 in operating funding assistance to add weekend fixed route and inter-city bus transportation services for the general public between Brinnon and Quilcene.
- \$74,538 in capital funding for one light duty transit coach for fixed-route service for general public on Makah Reservation.
- \$203,426 in operating funding to sustain and expand a fixed-route transportation service for general public on Makah Reservation.

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- **\$319,139 in operating funding assistance to sustain and expand fixed-route transportation services to the general public between Port Angeles, Seattle, and SeaTac.**
- **\$199,051 in operating funding to sustain vanpools to provide employment options in a JOB LIFT program for the general public and persons with special needs in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.**

This funding has potential to assist with the need for increased public transportation routes and services throughout the counties, although based on the needs expressed by community residents, transportation continues to be of significant concern. In a 2006 Provider Survey conducted by Jefferson County Community Network's Family Support Coalition, Lack of transportation was sited as one of the most likely indicators to be an obstacle to receiving mental health services.

Health Care

Prenatal/Neonatal

The physical and mental health problems of both children and family members can be chronic and acute impediments to educational success and family stability. Immunizations, access to all forms of health care, including good prenatal care, and strong wellness skills can all be important buffers against disease and injury. For families in Clallam and Jefferson Counties without employer-provided health coverage or enrollment in supportive programs such as those OlyCAP operates, these items have become increasingly difficult to obtain.

Several factors relating to health care access can place babies born in Clallam and Jefferson Counties at greater risk of health related problems. According to the Washington State Department of Health, 15.8% of pregnant women in Clallam receive inadequate prenatal care, while in Jefferson County the same is true for 19% of pregnant women. In general, pregnant women in Clallam and Jefferson Counties receive about the same number of visits throughout their pregnancy as the state average, and slightly more visits for women receiving Medicaid. Tables 9 and 10 show the statistics for Prenatal Care by Medicaid Status for Women with 2003 Births.

TABLE 9: Prenatal Care by Medicaid Status for Women with 2003 Births

| County or State | Total | % First Trimester | Avg # Visits | Medicaid Women | % First Trimester | Avg # Visits | Non-Medicaid Women | % First Trimester | Avg # Visits |
|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Clallam | 600 | 82.5% | 11.8 | 368 | 79.2% | 11.8 | 232 | 87.7% | 11.7 |
| Jefferson | 223 | 78.4% | 10.9 | 133 | 73.4% | 10.3 | 90 | 86.3% | 11.8 |
| WA | 79,237 | 81.6% | 10.9 | 36,118 | 72.3% | 10.2 | 43,119 | 89.6 | 11.4 |

[Medicaid refers to the receipt of Medicaid paid maternity care services or enrollment in a state-contracted capitated managed care plan for at least 3 of the last 6 months before delivery. The Avg # Visits refers to the average (mean) number of prenatal care visits reported on the birth certificate] (DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 2005)

TABLE 10: Eligibility Status for Women with Medicaid-paid Births in 2003

| County or State | TANF # | TANF as % | Medicaid # | Medicaid as % | Non-Medicaid # | Non-Medicaid as % | Total |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Clallam | 131 | 21.8% | 368 | 61.3% | 232 | 38.7% | 600 |
| Jefferson | 46 | 20.6% | 133 | 59.6% | 90 | 40.4% | 223 |
| WA | 10,968 | 20.5% | 36,118 | 45.6% | 43,119 | 54.4% | 79,237 |

[Medicaid refers to the receipt of Medicaid paid maternity care services or enrollment in a state-contracted capitated managed care plan for at least 3 of the last 6 months before delivery. The Avg # Visits refers to the average (mean) number of prenatal care visits reported on the birth certificate] (DSHS Research and Data Analysis, 2005)

Oral Health

Prenatal and neonatal health services only represent the care of women and their newborns, however there is a full range of health related needs disproportionately affecting those in poverty. A common health problem relates to dental care – both preventative and intervention services. Though OlyCAP has been addressing the dental needs of children and families for several years with a mobile oral health unit, in 2006, it opened the doors of its innovative state-of-the-art, full-service dental clinic. This will undoubtedly support the dental health of thousands of children and families in the months and years to come, although low-income residents of both Counties continue to express concern that transportation to and

from the clinic will be an obstacle to access. OlyCAP is working to minimize the transportation burden for families, and to maximize the effectiveness and access to its clinic. In 2005, OlyCAP served 1500 people through its dental program. The need for services, however, is not declining.

Mental Health

Through review of local media, community focus groups, and service provider reports for the region, there is a growing need for a comprehensive continuum of care for mental health services, including those related to substance abuse. Mental health services in Jefferson and Clallam Counties are coordinated under the Peninsula Regional Support Network (PRSN). The PRSN contracts for community mental health services with four entities: Kitsap Mental Health (Kitsap County), Jefferson Mental Health Services (East Jefferson County), Peninsula Community Mental Health Center (East Clallam County), and West End Outreach Services (West Clallam and Jefferson Counties). Utilization rates in various age categories are shown in Tables 11 through 13.

TABLE 11: Peninsula Community Health Center Utilization (03'-05')

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Clallam County | | | |
| Total Clients Served | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Age 0-5 | 24 | 27 | 37 |
| Age 6-17 | 379 | 434 | 452 |
| Age 18-30 | 366 | 402 | 395 |
| Residential: | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Age 18-30 | 14 | 17 | 15 |
| Jefferson County | | | |
| Total Clients Served | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Age 18-30 | 1 | 0 | 5 |

TABLE 12: West End Outreach Services Utilization (03'-05')

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Clallam County | | | |
| Total Clients Served | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Age 0-5 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Age 6-17 | 94 | 127 | 123 |
| Age 18-30 | 71 | 57 | 77 |
| Residential: | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Age 18-30 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Jefferson County | | | |
| Total Clients Served | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Age 18-30 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Residential: | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Age 18-30 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
|-----------|---|---|---|

TABLE 13: Jefferson Mental Health Services Utilization (03'-05')

| | | | |
|--|------|------|------|
| Clallam County Total Clients Served | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Age 18-30 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Residential: | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Age 18-30 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Jefferson County Total Clients Served | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Age 0-5 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Age 6-17 | 123 | 131 | 130 |
| Age 18-30 | 103 | 116 | 150 |
| Residential: | | | |
| Age 0-5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age 6-17 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Age 18-30 | 10 | 4 | 6 |

A look at the Utilization Rates above shows a 5.2% overall increase in services between 2004 and 2005, while there was a 12.5% increase between 2003 and 2004. While the modest 5% increase is in line with the population increase, there are variables of complexity to be taken into consideration. Data obtained through conversation with "front-line", direct-service providers and service recipients indicated an ever-growing complexity of mental health needs in the communities. Many of the people being served are bringing with them dual-or multiple-diagnoses, and dealing with increasingly complex issues, often involving myriad stressors associated with poverty, including inadequate housing, inability to have basic needs met, poor nutrition and health care access, and adverse affects of drugs and alcohol. In other words, while there is only a modest increase in utilization between 2004 and 2005, the numbers alone do not paint an accurate portrait of the multiple challenges families are contending with.

Elder Care

Clallam and Jefferson Counties each have a high percentage of its population comprised of aging seniors. With more than 16,000 residents in the two counties who are age 70 or older, there is a growing need for both ongoing geriatric care and hospice-related services. In 2003, the Olympic Area Agency on Aging (OA3) and The Peninsula Daily News distributed a paper and pencil questionnaire through the newspaper focusing on the needs of older adults living in the area. Over 1,100 questionnaires were successfully completed and returned. Respondents were asked to indicate older-adult related services that they would find to be helpful. Affordable dental care was by far the most frequently cited helpful service, followed by other health-related services such as prescription drug costs, disease prevention, and health care product information (Community Advocates for Rural Elders, 2006).

In addition to the useful information from the OA3 survey, recent focus group discussions provided helpful insight into the lives and needs of the older senior populations throughout Clallam and Jefferson Counties. There was much discussion about the need for preventative care such as strength and balance-building programs, to minimize risk of falling, and consequential bone-breaks. There was also significant call for more attention to mental health of older seniors, and support with individuals suffering from depression, or "the blues", and relief from loneliness and isolation.

Substance Use and Abuse

The adverse consequences of substance use and abuse are well documented across the board. One thing we know is that substance abuse has profoundly damaging effects on children and families. The 2003 Washington State Needs Assessment compared the substance use rates and trends among Washington State counties. At the time of the 2003 community survey it was determined that Clallam and Jefferson County residents were generally less likely to have engaged in substance use than the state average, with two exceptions; alcohol, and cigarettes. More than 88% of Clallam and Jefferson County adult residents reported lifetime use of alcohol, compared to the state average of about 77%. There was more than 66% of the population in each county who reported having misused alcohol in their life by binge drinking, compared to 57.5% for the state.

As a whole, lifetime cigarette use for the state was reported for 60.4% of the population, whereas usage rate was at 64.7% and 65.1% for Clallam and Jefferson Counties respectively. When investigating a bit more, however, fewer than 18% of the population in each county indicated cigarette use in the past 30 days, compared to 28% for the state population as a whole. All illicit drug use reports showed that Clallam and Jefferson County residents were less likely to have used at some point in their lifetime, or within the past 30 days than the general population of the state as a whole.

When considering the percent of adults at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level who need treatment services, however, both counties are only slightly below the state average of 13.6%, with 13.4% and 12.8% in Clallam and Jefferson respectively. A testament to this modest success [by comparison to the state average] may be seen in the correlating statistic that places Clallam County at the top of the list for counties in the state in terms of providing treatment services to people in poverty if they need it. In Clallam County, 51.1% of adults who need drug or alcohol treatment and are eligible for DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse services (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) received treatment. The state average is far below that, at 26.2%. Jefferson County was over 3 full percentage points better than the state average at 29.7%.

While low-income people in these two counties may be more likely to actually receive treatment than in other parts of the state, the data shows that nearly half of those in need in Clallam County will not receive treatment, while approximately 2/3 of the Jefferson County low-income population in need of treatment will go without. That reminder is particularly stark when taking into consideration that between 1998 and 2003, the estimated rate of need for alcohol and drug treatment increased in Clallam County from 9.9% to 13.4% and in Jefferson County from 10.9% to 12.8%. Additionally, today methamphetamine

manufacture and use is sweeping across the country, and bringing with it multiple consequences. For instance, in Jefferson County, about 60% of the child neglect and dependency cases are caused by meth (PT Leader, 4/26/06), and child placements rise as drug addicted mothers combat the drug (Peninsula Daily, 4/30/06)

Foster Care placements from Port Angeles and Sequim more than doubled in 2005 (from 25 to 62). Eighty percent were meth related and about 80% of those were children separated from single moms. In Port Townsend, three children were placed in foster care in 2004, and none were meth related. In 2005, there were seven cases, and six of those were related to meth use. More than two dozen children have been taken out of their homes and placed in foster care in Port Angeles in the first half of 2006, with sixteen of those cases involving meth (Peninsula Daily News, 5/06).

Similarly, crime rates are up in several areas of the peninsula, with many law enforcement personnel stating that it is in large part due to substance use – and most often methamphetamine. Total crime rates in Port Townsend, Port Angeles, and Sequim are higher than the state average of 52.87 per 1000 people, at rates of 58.7, 59.1, and 64.4, respectively (PT Leader, 4/12/06).

Intravenous drug users in Clallam County prefer to shoot the highly addictive meth almost 2-to-1 over heroin. In Jefferson County, it's about half and half. Officials with the health departments in the two counties are working to help users get the help and treatment they need. One way they are helping is by trying to prevent the spread of infection and disease by taking used needles off the street, and exchanging them for clean ones.

The needle-exchange programs in the two counties began in 2000, and as the prevalence of meth and other hard drugs has increased on the North Olympic Peninsula, the number of syringes swapped has increased as well. In 2003, Clallam Health and Human Services distributed a total of 38,527 needles, while Jefferson County Exchange traded about 13,716. The numbers soared in each county in 2004, to 72,734 in Clallam and to 18,060 in Jefferson. By 2005, the numbers in Clallam reduced to 68,062, and the numbers in Jefferson dropped to 9,222. In 2005, about 80% of new clients in Clallam County said they injected meth and about 40% injected heroin. In Jefferson County, the drugs were about evenly split (Peninsula Daily News, 5/18/06).

Participants in the community focus groups discussed at length the high prevalence of complications to caseloads based on "meth" and other substance use. Substance use prevention and treatment was among the top priorities set out by community members when determining needs in their neighborhoods. Similarly, the local media has been covering numerous stories on meth use, referring to it in a number of negative contexts, such as, "...the number one problem for Jefferson County's Children..." (PT Leader, 4/26/06).

Caring For and Educating Our Children

Child Care

There is arguably nothing more important to parents than the care and support their children receive. With that comes significant concern and effort to find quality, affordable childcare. Unfortunately, licensed childcare options are declining for the roughly 6,750 children under the age of 10 in Clallam and Jefferson Counties (OFM, 2005; WA State Child Care Resource & Referral Network, 2005). In fact, local childcare resources throughout Clallam and Jefferson Counties have been declining for the past several years, despite an increase in slots for school age children (WCCRRN, 2005). This trend is not unique to these two counties, however, as statewide the number of licensed facilities has declined by about 5% over the past 5 years.

Over the past several years, both Clallam and Jefferson Counties have lost a significant number of family childcare businesses. Clallam County has experienced a net loss of 6 businesses, or 41 potential slots over the past five years. The overall number of center facilities has declined as well leading to a net loss of 65 slots in centers and family childcare homes. The net loss of 15 exempt slots for school age children has further shrunk the supply (CCRRN, 2005). Similarly, in Jefferson County during the past five years, there has been a net loss of 8 family childcare businesses, or 67 potential slots.

The overall number of center facilities has risen by 2 and center-based slots have increased, but not enough to offset the loss of family childcare slots, resulting in a net loss of 19 slots. Figures 13 through 15 show the 5-year trends for providers in Clallam County, Jefferson County, and Washington State, respectively. Across the board, numbers of slots have been virtually flat, or declining since 2002.

FIGURE 13: Clallam County Childcare Providers

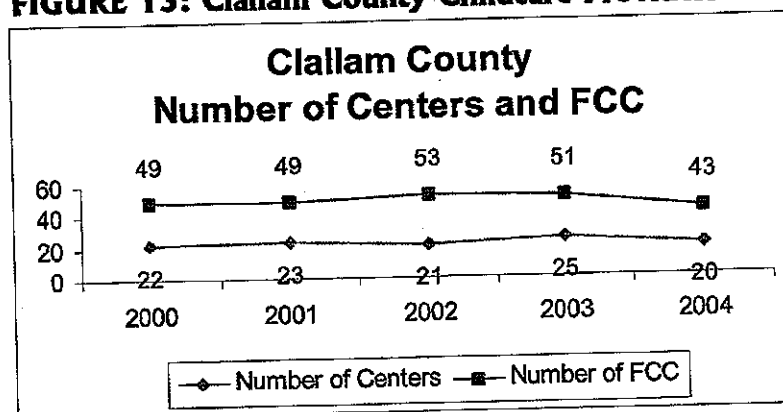


FIGURE 14: Jefferson County Childcare Providers

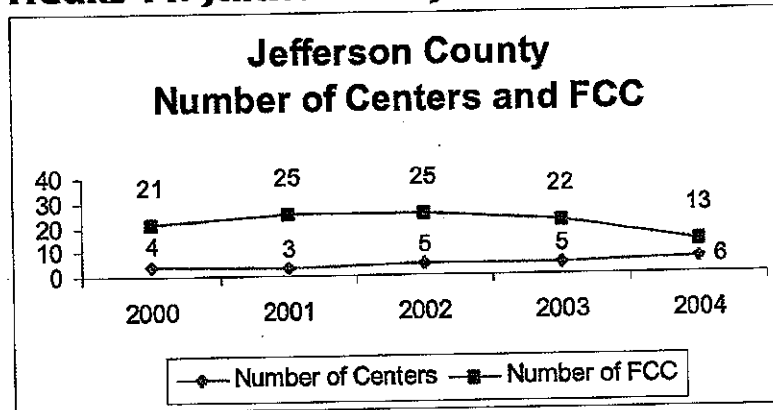
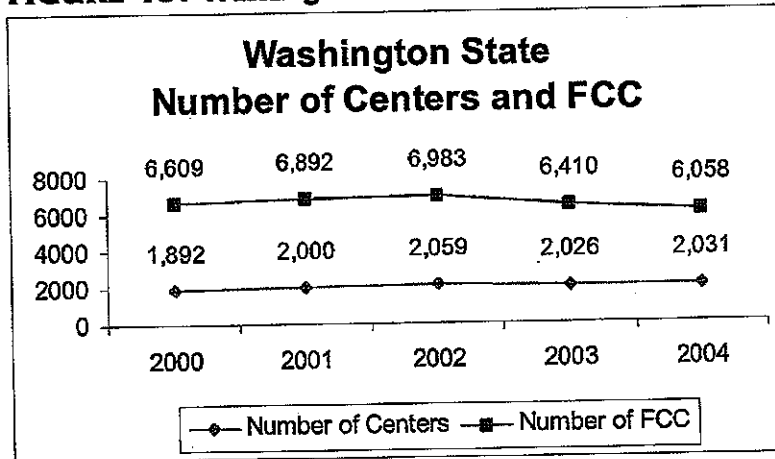


FIGURE 15: Washington State Childcare Providers



Given the downward trend in numbers of Centers, it may be no surprise that the number of individual slots for children are declining as well. Figures 16 through 18 display the change in numbers of provider slots between 2000 and 2004 in Clallam County, Jefferson County, and the State of Washington, respectively.

FIGURE 16: Clallam County Provider Slots by Year

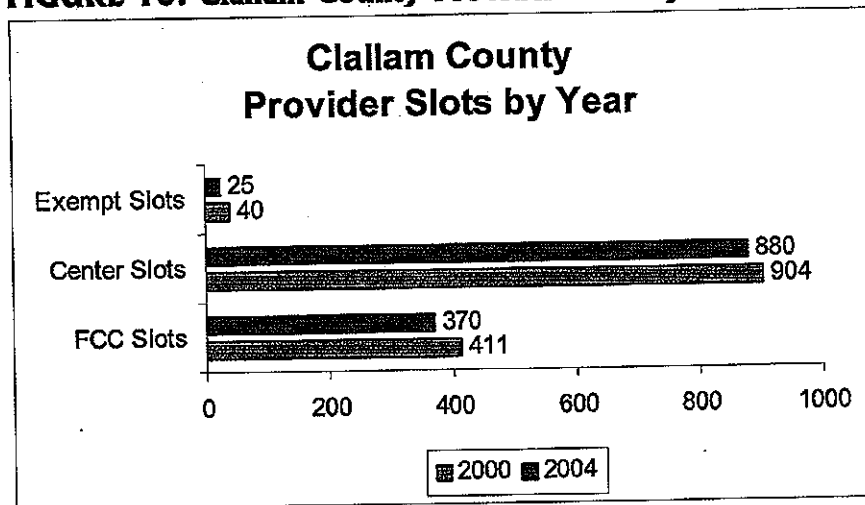


FIGURE 17: Jefferson County Provider Slots by Year

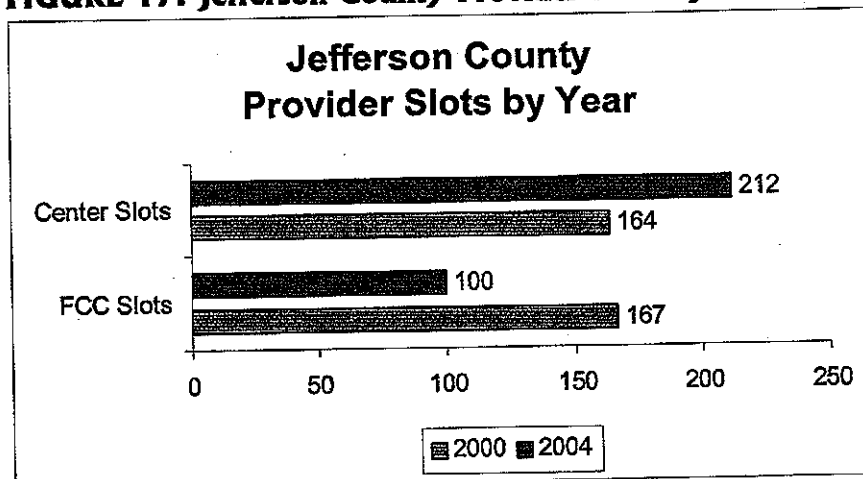
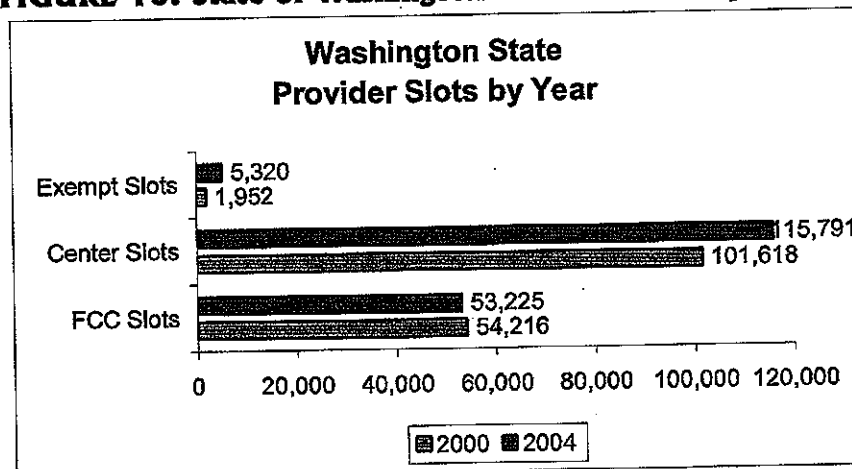


FIGURE 18: State of Washington Provider Slots by Year



Because of a higher required ratio of adults to children under 2 years old in licensed care, there are typically fewer slots for infants and toddlers than for other age groups. The ratio is highest – at 1 adult to 4 infants – and the supply the smallest in centers, making family child care an important option for our youngest children (CCRRN, 2005). However, in Jefferson County, due to a loss of family childcare businesses, there are actually more slots in centers than in FCC's.

Even if a family is able to find an available local resource for childcare, the costs are often prohibitive. Figures 19 and 20 show the average monthly rates for centers and family childcare homes for different age groups. Figure 21 shows the average cost in Washington, which by comparison is significantly higher for many of the age groups.

FIGURE 19: Clallam County Child Care Rates

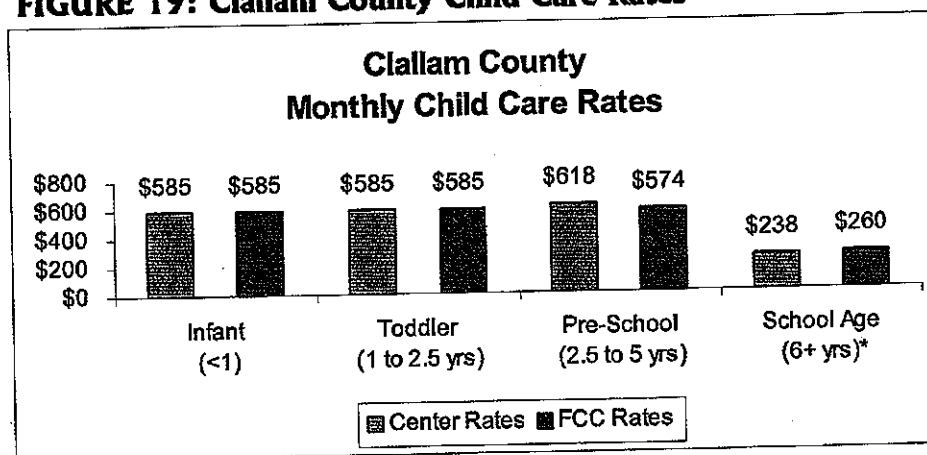


FIGURE 20: Jefferson County Child Care Rates

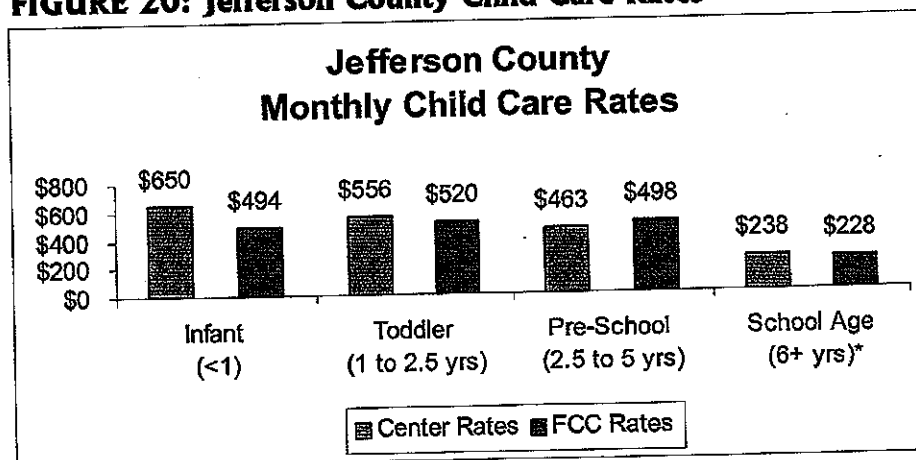
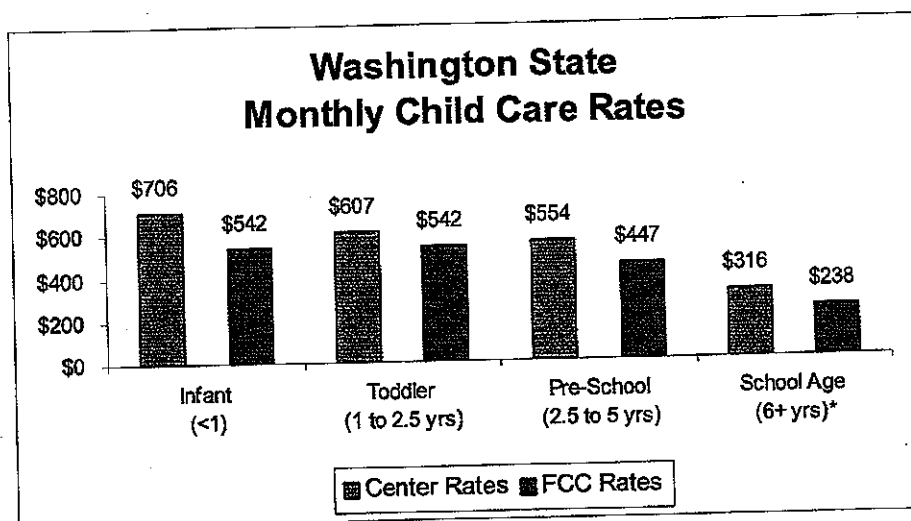


FIGURE 21: State of Washington Child Care Rates



Parents, policymakers, and others with an interest in child well being have a shared stake in ensuring that childcare is high quality, accessible and affordable. As can be inferred from the average costs shown in Tables 19-21, families stretch to meet the cost of care, which can easily be a quarter or more of their overall income. The median household income in both counties averages significantly less than the 2004 State average of \$51,762 per year (WSCRRN, 2005). In Clallam County, the median household annual income is \$41,108 (20.6% less than State average), which is slightly less than the \$41,801 (19.2% less than State average) per year average in Jefferson County. Unfortunately, average costs of childcare do not coincide favorably with the lower median salary. On average statewide, families are paying 13% to 16% of their income towards infant childcare, while in Clallam and Jefferson Counties the averages are 17% and 14% to 19% of income respectively. In 2003, it was noted that Clallam and Jefferson County families pay a higher percentage of after tax income on fulltime childcare than families in 34 other counties in Washington (Peninsula Daily News, 2003)

Preschool

Olympic Community Action Programs is the grantee for the federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start programs as well as the state funded Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. The Clallam County area is also served by Indian Head Start programs in four locations. The Hoh, Makah, Quileute, and Elwha tribes each offer Head Start services. As mentioned in the previous section, childcare options are shrinking for parents seeking preschool services for their children. Table 14 provides a snapshot of the early childhood program providers in both counties.

TABLE 14: Early Childhood Programs (8-May-06)

| Name | City | Phone # | # of Children | Ages | Services |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Banbury Corner Daycare/Preschool | Port Angeles | 457-4480 | L-58 S- 45 | Birth to 5 | Daycare; Preschool |

Olympic Community Action Programs

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------|----|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Bibity Bobity Child Care | Carlsborg | 683-2311 | 47 | 1-12 | Daycare, Preschool; Afterschool |
| Bobaggins Daycare & Learning Center | Port Angeles | 452-8939 | 60 | | Daycare; Preschool Kindergarten |
| Children's Montessori | Port Angeles | 417-1945 | | | |
| Creative Learning Preschool | Port Angeles | 417-8090 | 48 | 3-6 | Preschool only |
| Fairview Bible Church Preschool | Port Angeles | 457-0637 | 20 | 3 & 4 | Preschool only |
| Faith Lutheran Preschool | Sequim | 681-7126 | 35 | 3-6 | Preschool; Kindergarten |
| Five Acre School | Sequim | 681-7255 | 44 | 3-12 | Preschool - 6th grade |
| Holy Trinity ELCA | Port Angeles | 452-2323 | 24 | 3-5 | Preschool only |
| Kids Kampus | Port Angeles | 457-5351 | 65 | 1-12 | Daycare; Preschool |
| Lincoln Park Home Day Care & Preschool | Port Angeles | 452-2428 | 10 | 3-12 | All Day Preschool |
| Little Montessori | Port Angeles | 452-7915 | 52 | 2.5 to 6 | Preschool & Kindergarten |
| Lower Elwha Child Care | Port Angeles | 452-3562 | 39 | Birth to 12 | Daycare |
| Olympic Christian School | Port Angeles | 457-4640 | 23 | 3-6 | Preschool; Kindergarten |
| Peninsula College Coop Preschool | Port Angeles | 452-5209 | | | |
| Queen of Angels Preschool | Port Angeles | 457-6903 | 13 | 3-5 | Preschool only |
| St. Matthew Lutheran Preschool | Port Angeles | 457-4122 | 64 | | Preschool |
| Caring Hands Daycare | Port Townsend | 385-6509 | 44 | 1 month to 12 | Daycare; Preschool |
| Cedarbrook Daycare & Preschool | Port Hadlock | 379-2271 | 61 | 1 month to 12 | Daycare; Preschool |
| Firefly Academy Preschool | Port Townsend | 379-1129 | 32 | 2 to 6 | Part time preschool |
| Neighborhood School House | | 379-1125 | | | |

Kindergarten Through High School

When compared with other students in Washington State, Clallam and Jefferson County 4th, 7th, and 10th graders historically scored above the statewide averages. At the time of the writing of the 2003 Community Needs and Gaps Assessment for OlyCAP, all but 10th grade reading scores were higher for Clallam County students, while Jefferson County students were closer to state averages, and lower

only in 4th grade math and 7th grade reading. As of the 2004-2005 school year, however, many percentages were lower in both Clallam County and Jefferson County than the state average, as indicated by shading in Table 15.

TABLE 15: 04'-05' WASL - Percent Meeting Standards

| Clallam grade | MATH | | | READING | | | WRITING | | | SCIENCE | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th |
| State Avg. | 60.8 | 50.8 | 47.5 | 79.5 | 69 | 72.9 | 57.5 | 61.2 | 65.2 | 35.6 | 36.4 | 35.8 |
| Cape Flattery | 48.2 | 30 | 16.7 | 80 | 57.5 | 62.3 | 35.6 | 29.5 | 21.4 | 48.4 (5 th) | 21.4 | 9.5 |
| Crescent | 53.8 | 33.3 | 19 | 84.6 | 77.8 | 57.1 | 52 | 33.3 | 57.1 | 50 (5 th) | 57.1 | 19 |
| Port Angeles | 67.6 | 55.6 | 45.8 | 87.2 | 74 | 71 | 61 | 69.6 | 60.3 | 48.8 (5 th) | 47.8 (8 th) | 35.3 |
| Quillayute | 46.2 | 42.9 | 20.8 | 65.5 | 66.3 | 43.6 | 29.8 | 56.1 | 34.3 | 31.5 | 22.3 | 17.3 |
| Sequim | 61.7 | 53.3 | 54.5 | 71.9 | 72.7 | 78.5 | 56.6 | 70.6 | 68.7 | 46.2 (5 th) | 42.9 (8 th) | 45.1 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jefferson grade | MATH | | | READING | | | WRITING | | | SCIENCE | | |
| | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th | 4 th | 7 th | 10 th |
| State Avg. | 60.8 | 50.8 | 47.5 | 79.5 | 69 | 72.9 | 57.5 | 61.2 | 65.2 | 35.6 | 36.4 | 35.8 |
| Chimacum | 50.5 | 44.2 | 26.2 | 82.4 | 53.3 | 70.6 | 41.8 | 50.8 | 59.7 | 23.7 (5 th) | 27.5 (8 th) | 41.2 |
| Port Townsend | 57.7 | 55.5 | 41.4 | 73.1 | 73.6 | 69.9 | 38.5 | 60 | 62.3 | 45.4 (5 th) | 29.8 (8 th) | 32.2 |
| Quilcene | 66.7 | 50 | 39.1 | 80 | 80 | 60.9 | 33.3 | 45 | 56.5 | 37.1 (5 th) | 51.5 (8 th) | 21.7 |

Source: Washington State Report Card, OSPI, 2006

[Note: Grey shading indicates a percentage of scores meeting standards that is below the state average.]

As can be seen from Table 15, there is great variance in the standardized test scores from district to district. The Quillayute school district, for instance, had a lower than state average on all of its test scores, whereas the Sequim school district, in the same county, only scored below the state average in two instances – 4th grade reading and 4th grade writing. Many of the categories are significantly lower for students in the two counties when compared with the state average.

The results of not performing at a rate that meets state standards and school expectations are numerous. Not the least of which is the higher likelihood a student may dropout or otherwise fail to graduate. The consequences of not graduating from high school are increasingly serious for both individuals and the society as a whole. In 2004, the dropout rates in Clallam and Jefferson Counties were 4.6% and 3.2% respectively – significantly lower than the state average of 5.8%. Table 16 displays dropout rates for different grade levels in high schools in both counties compared to the state as a whole.

TABLE 16: Dropout Rates by Grade (2004)

| Location | Grade 9 | | | Grade 10 | | | Grade 11 | | | Grade 12 | | | Total |
|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | Net | Drop-outs | Rate % | Net | Drop-outs | Rate % | Net | Drop-outs | Rate % | Net | Drop-outs | Rate % | |
| Clallam | 909 | 40 | 4.4 | 791 | 29 | 3.7 | 828 | 41 | 5.0 | 691 | 37 | 5.4 | 4.6 |
| Jefferson | 310 | 7 | 2.3 | 291 | 3 | 1.0 | 301 | 19 | 6.3 | 266 | 8 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| WA | 87620 | 4486 | 5.1 | 81296 | 4561 | 5.6 | 77346 | 4987 | 6.4 | 69252 | 4331 | 6.3 | 5.8 |

Source: Graduation and Dropout Statistics, 2003-04, OSPI, 05'

A closer look at the dropout and graduation rates shows that in Clallam County, American Indian students are almost twice as likely to drop out of high school as their White classmates. Hispanic students in Clallam County are more than 4 times as likely to drop out as their White classmates. Similarly, in Jefferson County, Hispanic and Black students are more than 3 times as likely to drop out as their White counterparts. This represents a greater disparity in dropout rates for minority students than the state average.

TABLE 17: Dropout Rates by Ethnicity/Race (2004)

| Location | American Indian | | Asian/Pacific Islander | | Black | | Hispanic | | White | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|------------------------|--------|-------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % |
| Clallam | 330 | 7.3% | 86 | 1.2% | 26 | 3.8% | 118 | 15.3% | 2636 | 3.9% |
| Jefferson | 35 | 0% | 33 | 3.0% | 21 | 9.5% | 22 | 9.1% | 1057 | 3.0% |
| WA | 8703 | 12.0% | 25016 | 3.7% | 16242 | 9.7% | 30290 | 10.2% | 234660 | 5.0% |

Source: Graduation and Dropout Statistics, 2003-04, OSPI, 05'

The sector in Clallam County that is at greatest risk of dropout from high school is that of the "Limited English Proficiency" category. In the 2003 school year, there were 50 recorded students in that category, and 28% of them dropped out. In Jefferson County, "Special Education Students" are the most likely to drop out of school, at a rate of 5.3%. In Clallam County, male students are much more likely to drop out (5.6% of males drop) than females (3.5% of females drop), which is similar to the variance in male vs. female dropout rates throughout the state as a whole. However, in Jefferson County, female students dropout at a rate higher than their male counterparts (3.6% female drop rate vs. 2.8% male drop rate). Table 18 indicates dropout rates of various subcategories of students. Of note, the "Low Income" category of students had a significantly lower dropout rate in Clallam and Jefferson Counties than the state average. In fact, in Jefferson County, low-income students were less likely to dropout than the general average for the county as a whole. This variance is unusual, in that statewide, and nationally, low-income students are typically much more likely to drop out than their peers.

TABLE 18: Dropout Rates by Sub-Categories (2004)

| Location | Limited English | | Special Education | | Low Income | | Female | | Male | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % | Net | Rate % |
| Clallam | 50 | 28% | 361 | 3.1% | 773 | 5.1% | 1544 | 3.5% | 1675 | 5.6% |
| Jefferson | 4 | 0% | 114 | 5.3% | 215 | 1.9% | 564 | 3.6% | 604 | 2.8% |
| WA | 12343 | 7.9% | 31300 | 6.9% | 81021 | 6.8% | 153939 | 5.2% | 161575 | 6.4% |

Source: Graduation and Dropout Statistics, 2003-04, OSPI, 05'

Another indicator of student progress is the number of seniors who are graduating "on time". In Clallam County, more than 72% of students graduated on time in 2004, compared to the state average of 70%. Jefferson County has an even higher rate of on time graduations, at over 74%. Extended graduation rates are also higher in the two counties than the 74% for the state as a whole, with both counties having a higher than 78% rate.

Across the board, in Clallam and Jefferson Counties, school enrollments are flat, and projections in many areas are for a decrease in enrollments in the coming years. As with public education throughout the State, and the nation as a whole, funding for education is based on head counts. Therefore, a projected decrease in numbers of students can easily be translated into a decrease in funding for education. Since so much of a school district's budget is "fixed" – regardless of number of students enrolled, any decrease in funding brings with it potential for gravely disrupting the consistency and quality of educational, extra-curricular, and ancillary services provided through the schools. Projections are often forecasted based on registrations in the lower grades – as younger children enter school it is believed for the most part, they will remain in school. Therefore, when trends in the lower grades are for decreased enrollments, the future projections for middle schools, junior-high schools, and high schools decrease. Table 19 displays the current kindergarten enrollments, and projections of the largest districts in the counties through 2007.

TABLE 19: Kindergarten Projection Trends

| District | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | Direction of trend |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Jefferson County | | | | |
| Port Townsend | 83 | 84 | 76 | Down 8% |
| Chimacum | 91 | 80 | 76 | Down 16.5% |
| Quilcene | 15 | 10 | 10 | Down 33% |
| Clallam County | | | | |
| Sequim | 184 | 184 | 170 | Down 9% |
| Port Angeles | 325 | 310 | 290 | Down 11% |
| Quillayute Valley (Forks) | 160 | 158 | 82 | Down 49% |

(Not all districts represented)

Services for Disabled Children

Birth to three services for children with special needs are coordinated through Interagency Coordinating Councils in each county. Concerned Citizens holds the contract for Infant-Toddler Early Intervention services in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. Concerned Citizens either provides the services directly through contracts with mental health specialists or coordinates with local school districts who provide services. Between January 1 2005 and January 30 2006, 105 children were served in Clallam County and 39 were served in Jefferson County (Concerned Citizens, 2006). These figures represent an increase in mental health services by 42% in Clallam County and 15% in Jefferson County since the 2002 data used for reporting in the previous Community Needs and Gaps Assessment (OlyCAP, 2003). This increase supports the qualitative and/or anecdotal information obtained through community dialog, as well. During focus group discussions, participants frequently referred to an observed or experienced need for increased services for disabled children throughout both counties.

Olympic Community Action Programs

Tables 20 and 21 display early intervention data from Concerned Citizens for the 2005 calendar year. The tables show the total numbers and demographic information about children who were diagnosed with various conditions.

TABLE 20: Early Intervention Diagnosis - Clallam (1/05-2/06)

| EARLY INTERVENTION DIAGNOSIS | Asian or Pacific Islander | African American (Not Hispanic) | Hispanic or Latino | Multi-Racial | American Indian or Alaskan | White (Not Hispanic) | Not Provided | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Total (All Rows) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 79 | 5 | 105 |
| no diagnosis | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 51 | 4 | 72 |
| Cerebral Palsy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Congenital Anomaly | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Deaf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Developmental | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Down Syndrome | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Epilepsy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Failure to Thrive | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Hearing Loss | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Neurofibromatosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Orthopedics | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Prematurity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 11 |
| Visual | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

(Concerned Citizens, 2006) [Only columns displaying those where services were performed]

TABLE 21: Early Intervention Diagnosis - Jefferson (1/05-2/06)

| EARLY INTERVENTION DIAGNOSIS | Hispanic or Latino | Multi-Racial | Other | White (Not Hispanic) | Not Provided | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Total (All Rows) | 1 | 5 | 1 | 25 | 7 | 39 |
| The child has no diagnosis | 1 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 16 |
| Asthma | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Autism | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cerebral Palsy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Developmental Delay | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 9 |
| Down Syndrome | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Epilepsy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Neurological Impairment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| Visual Impairment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

(Concerned Citizens, 2006) [Only columns displaying those where services were performed]

Projected Head Start/ECEAP Eligible Children

In step with projections for kindergarten enrollments mentioned in a previous section, the projections for Head Start and ECEAP eligible children range from flat, to a decreasing number over time. A review of the current projections for local school districts indicates a flat or decreasing elementary population in most districts.

The fluctuations in extremely small rural districts are often due to the change in one or two families alone, and are unreliable predictors of trends.

The total enrollment of kindergarten students for both counties in 2004 was 856. The projected enrollment for 2006 is 872, or less than a 2% increase. Forecasting out further into the future, it is expected that by 2010 there will be 916 kindergarten students enrolled. That number will represent only a modest 7% increase since 2004. As has been noted throughout this report, however, these enrollment trends do not take into account the ever-increasing level of complexity and needs the students are bringing with them to the classroom. In other words, while the numbers have been staying essentially the same, the intensity and complexity of the child and his or her family's needs are increasing. Thus, it is not possible to accurately measure outcomes of support services merely based on numbers of individuals served. Work needs to be done to more realistically measure the effectiveness and impact of Head Start and ECEAP services, given the degree of needs the children have.

In its 2004-2005 Program Information Report, OlyCAP's Head Start program reported a total enrollment of 180 youth in its Head Start program, and another 61 in its Early Head Start program, for a total of 241 enrolled children. In 2004, 45% of Clallam County school children were eligible for the Free and Reduced Meals program, while in Jefferson County that rate was 40%. When basing eligibility for Head Start and ECEAP programming on a child's eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meals programs in schools, we can see that in 2004, approximately 376 kindergarten children were eligible for services, of which 180, or 48% were enrolled in OlyCAP Head Start. It is important to keep in mind that the counties in which OlyCAP provides services are expansive, with several very small, rural schools. Thus, transportation to and from Head Start services can be a complication for low-income families. Even with transportation and geographic complications, nearly half of the eligible children received care.

The projected Head Start eligible population for 2005-2006 is 397. The OlyCAP Head Start program is planning its services around that projection, taking into consideration all the data they gather through their self-evaluations and planning committee meetings, the results of which are outlined in the following section.

Internal Head Start Assessments

Fiscal year 2005 was year three of OlyCAP Head Start program's planning cycle. A Community Needs Assessment was completed in 2003 and submitted as part of the Head Start application. That assessment was used to inform decisions and direction for the 2004-2006 program years. The program continues to work with local health department personnel regarding community-wide planning and monitoring of trends. Representatives from the Health Departments in both counties participate in the Head Start Advisory meetings, as do OlyCAP staff, Head Start parents and other service providers. These advisory groups assist in the monitoring of needs and trends and identification of areas for prioritization.

Some of the notable recent trends identified include the general decline in the number of families with young children. All school districts report a flat or slight decline in their enrollment population projections. Concurrent with this trend is the general increase in population of the areas. This increase is due in most part to in-

migration of older (60+) citizens. The families who do remain in the two county area tend to show higher risk factors (childhood abuse experience, higher than state averages for smoking and drinking, lower education success rates, etc.) when compared to state percentages. Access to health care (especially adult dental, mental health services, etc.), and significantly higher rates of Medicaid births are all notable indicators of risk.

In the process of developing their Family Partnership Agreements, Head Start and ECEAP families are asked about the services they need and those they have been able to access. The result of this process provides the program a contemporary (in-the-moment), user-based way to monitor the changing trends in the local communities. Priorities are displayed for each county, and the program as a whole in Tables 22 through 24.

TABLE 22: Top Ten Identified Needs in Clallam County

| 2005 -2006 Identified needs for Clallam Cty | Unmet needs (%) | Ranking | Number of families with identified need | Number of families served |
|---|-----------------------|---------|--|------------------------------|
| Emergency/Crisis | 35% | 1 | 86 | 56 |
| WIC | 39% | 2 | 83 | 51 |
| Parent Education | 40% | 3 | 62 | 37 |
| Other | 42% | 4 | 60 | 35 |
| Transportation | 62% | 5 | 53 | 20 |
| Mental Health | 42% | 6 | 43 | 25 |
| Adult Education | 45% | 7 | 29 | 16 |
| Job Training | 55% | 8 | 27 | 12 |
| Health Education | 59% | 9 | 27 | 11 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect | 11% | 10 | 18 | 16 |

TABLE 23: Top Ten Identified Needs in Jefferson County

| 2005 -2006 Identified needs for Jefferson County | Unmet needs (%) | Ranking | Number of families with identified need | Number of families who received services |
|--|--------------------|---------|---|--|
| Emergency/Crisis | 7% | 1 | 27 | 25 |
| Transportation | 45% | 2 | 20 | 11 |
| WIC | 11% | 3 | 19 | 17 |
| Mental Health | 26% | 4 | 19 | 14 |
| Adult Education | 79% | 5 | 14 | 3 |
| Health Education | 50% | 6 | 12 | 6 |
| Job Training | 36% | 7 | 11 | 7 |
| Parent Education | 50% | 8 | 8 | 4 |
| Other | 50% | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| Child Abuse & Neglect | 33% | 10 | 6 | 4 |

TABLE 24: Top Ten Identified Needs for Program

| 2005 -2006 Identified needs for Program | Unmet needs (%) | Ranking | Number of families with identified need | Number of families who received services |
|---|--------------------|---------|---|--|
| Emergency/Crisis | 28% | 1 | 113 | 81 |
| WIC | 33% | 2 | 102 | 68 |
| Transportation | 48% | 3 | 73 | 31 |
| Parent Education | 41% | 4 | 70 | 41 |
| Mental Health | 37% | 5 | 62 | 39 |
| Adult Education | 56% | 6 | 43 | 19 |
| Health Education | 56% | 7 | 39 | 17 |

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| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Job Training | 50% | 8 | 38 | 19 |
| Child Abuse & Neglect | 17% | 9 | 24 | 20 |
| Domestic Violence | 38% | 10 | 21 | 13 |

In addition to the priority areas determined through the Family Partnership Agreement Process, in April of 2006 each file for every child enrolled in two classrooms was reviewed to determine current significant issues. One of the classes was a Part Day program, and the other a Full Day program. There were nine issues identified through that review effort as being of primary concern:

- Domestic Violence
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Issues
- Child Protective Services Involvement
- Not Living With Parents (with relatives or in foster care)
- Custody issues and/or restraining orders
- Homelessness
- Attendance Issues
- IEP

This review revealed that approximately 40% of children had active concerns in 4 or more of the nine issues identified above. At least 17% of the children had concerns in five or more areas. In the Part Day classroom, 49% of the families had suspected and/or confirmed substance abuse issues. In the Full Day program, an astounding 74% of the families had suspected or confirmed substance abuse issues. In both classrooms, 47% of the families had suspected or confirmed domestic violence concerns, with Child Protective Services having active cases with 40% of the Part Day families and 33% of the Full Day families. Mental health concerns were present for 37% of the children enrolled in the Part Day classroom, and for 47% of the Full Day students.

In its 2004-2005 Program Year Report, OlyCAP Head Start reported that 22% of its enrolled children (including Early Head Start) had been diagnosed during the program year as needing medical treatment, with all but one child receiving treatment. The highest medical need was related to childhood asthma. A total of 67 children (28%) received consultation from a Head Start-employed mental health professional. Of those, 6 received three or more consultations. In five instances the mental health professional provided 3 or more consultations with the families of children as well as the child individually. There were 11 children (5%) who were referred for mental health treatment outside of the Head Start program. In that same report, it was indicated that 58 children (25%) were determined to have disabilities - the most prevalent being speech or language impairment and non-categorical developmental delay.

Adding to the complexity of the challenges families were faced with, it was indicated that 45 of the families (19%) obtained emergency/crises housing intervention during that program year, while 73 families (31%) received some other form of housing assistance (subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.). Transportation assistance was also provided to 41 of the families (17%). On top of these predominantly financial stressors, mental health services were provided to 32 families (14%), substance abuse prevention or treatment was provided to 23 families (10%), and domestic violence services was provided to 14 families (6%). As is generally the case for people in poverty, the presenting challenges they are

faced with do not occur singularly, but rather are interconnected. For instance, it is impossible to dissect such powerful stressors as mental health difficulties, homelessness, substance use and domestic violence. The challenges associated with living in poverty and attending to children and family needs are great. The situations the families are dealing with in Clallam and Jefferson Counties are becoming increasingly complex, and consequently require increased attention from Head Start and other staff members. This complexity needs to remain in the forefront of planning sessions and contemplation for future program designs.

Focus Group and Individual Discussion Results

Perhaps more salient than the multiple reports and quantitative, statistical data used for this assessment were the personal accounts of current concerns expressed by the nearly 100 individuals participating in group discussions and one-on-one interviews. There was a wide range of anecdotes and personal experiences that highlighted numerous community strengths and challenges throughout both counties.

Current Trends and Needs

Participants were asked to indicate areas of significant concern in their communities, and then to prioritize which of those concerns are most prevalent or most urgent. During this process, there were three consistently cited "major needs" – or areas of concern in the communities:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Transportation (lack of alternatives)
- Child Care (lack of affordable alternatives).

Other common areas of concern included:

- Job Skills Training
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse relates issues
- Mental Health and General Healthcare Access and Services
- Senior Citizen Needs
- Education and School Needs
- Youth Programming Needs
- Food and Nutrition Needs
- Language and Cultural Differences.

Each of these areas of concern is described in more detail below.

Figures 22-24 display the overall major areas of concern based on input from focus group and interview participants. The figures indicate generalizations about the needs, based on frequency of responses and intensity – or degree of significance shared for each category. If a category does not show up in these figures it is not necessarily because that particular problem or issue is not relevant, but simply that the participants involved did not indicate that particular issue as significant during the interview or discussion. The Figures are best used as guides for consideration when investigating areas of concern for residents and employees in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

FIGURE 22: Top Ten Community Needs

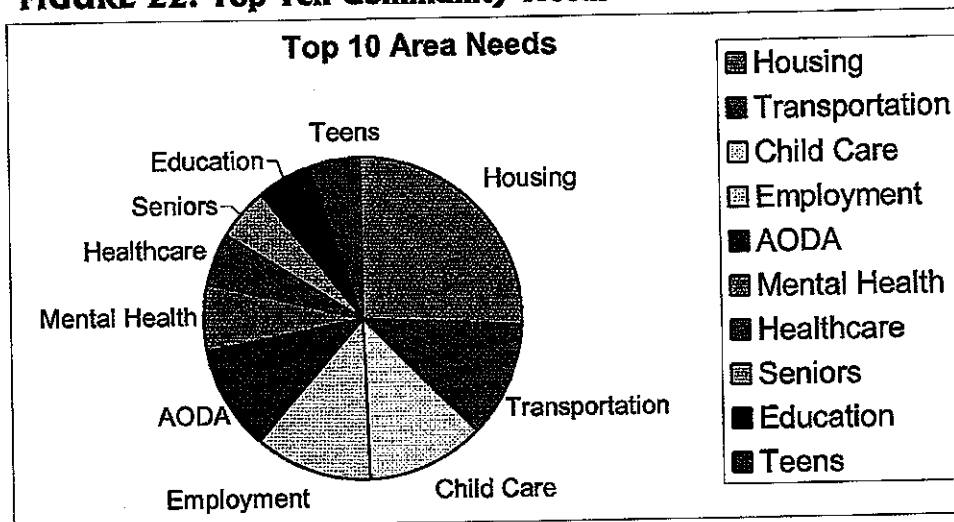


Figure 22 indicates the 10 most frequently cited areas of concern, with the varying degrees of significance. The reader will see that Housing (described in more detail below) was the issue of highest collective concern by informants.

FIGURE 23: Clallam County Top Seven Needs

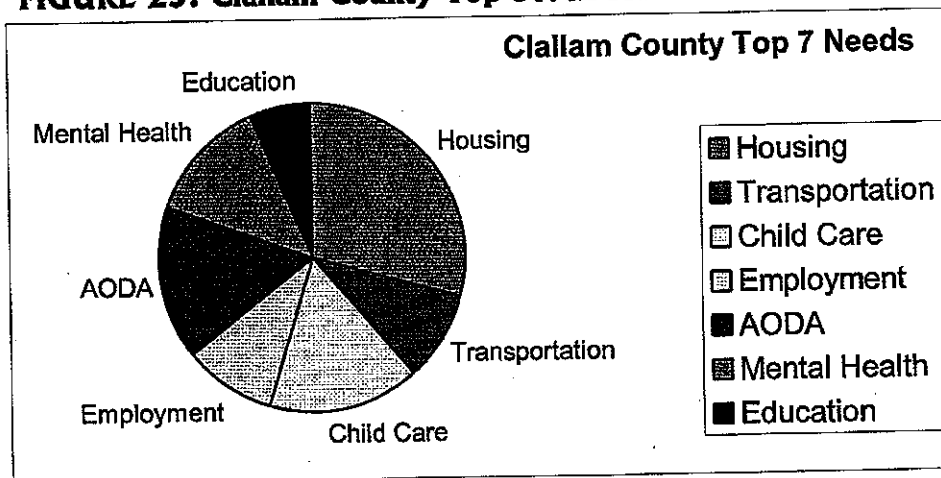
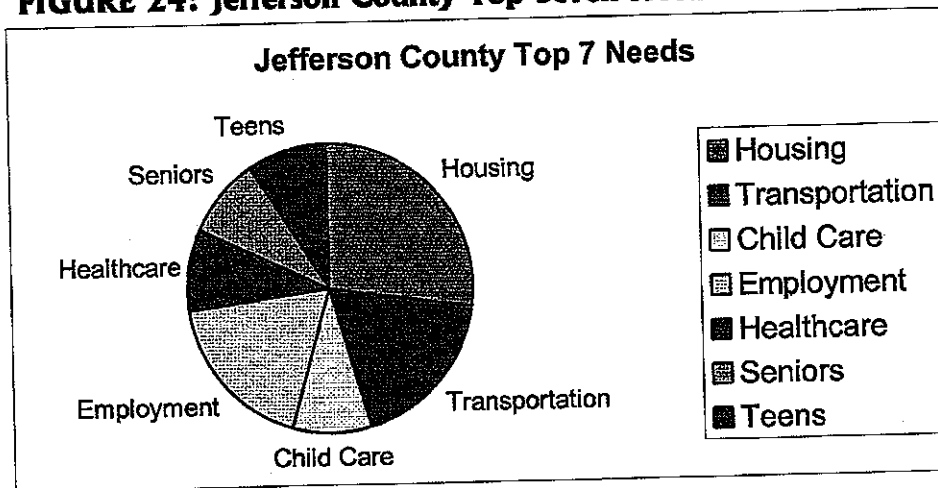


FIGURE 24: Jefferson County Top Seven Needs



Figures 23 and 24 show that there were some differences of emergent needs highlighted in the different counties. While they were similar, respondents in Clallam County expressed a greater relative concern for issues related to Mental Health, Child Care, and Education than Jefferson County. In Jefferson County, there was a greater expressed need for issues pertaining to Seniors, Health Care, and Teen programming.

A closer investigation of data showed variance within each county, based on location where the interviews and discussions were held. For instance, greater significance was placed on Transportation as an issue in areas such as Brinnon, Quilcene, and Forks than in the larger, more populated areas. Caution should be taken when interpreting this information, as the issues of significant concern that were expressed by participants of course depended on who was involved and the context of the conversations.

Housing & Homelessness

Participants discussed the major lack of affordable housing throughout the Counties. This (like so many of the issues) is much broader than Clallam or Jefferson Counties, as property values have sky rocketed over the past several years. There are few "low income" housing options for people (in relation to the need), and rents are on the rise.

There is a lack of temporary housing and shelters for homeless people, particularly for families and single men. When and where they do exist, there is often a lot of red tape for people to navigate through in order to stay there. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Home improvement/repair needs are high – lot of insufficient/dilapidated housing.
- There is a trend in retirees coming to the area and buying up the housing that may otherwise be affordable housing for local year-round residents.
- There are very few rental options available.
- There is a major homelessness problem. There is a shelter for the mental health and domestic violence populations, but not for the

- general population who don't fit those molds. The Hispanic population falls in this category, too.
- There are a lot of people living in places without formal rental agreements, which creates some more vulnerability for renters.
 - Lack of affordable housing is also causing people to "double", or "triple-up", and otherwise live in crowded, risky and undesirable circumstances.
 - There are too many hurdles for people to overcome in order to access the housing services that do exist.
 - Need a better working relationship with the Housing Authority.
 - Need a transportation plan to go with Housing options.
 - Need to identify transitional housing for dual-diagnosis families for extended period of time (2 years)
 - Elders and disabled living in substandard housing in rural areas is very high.
 - Need to look at creative solutions: Land trust? Modular homes? Why are we not using Fort Worden, or other such places for this?
 - We need a shelter (Permanent, 12-month shelter).

Transportation

Lack of transportation options (public transportation, support with affordable auto maintenance and repair, etc.) was frequently discussed. Inability to access transportation was cited as a cause for many problems in obtaining services, following through with requirements for services, missing work or other important appointments and activities, etc. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Transportation options are lacking
- Some organizations are trying to do increased numbers of home visits in order to address this issue, but it remains a problem.
- Public transportation is a problem – not enough scheduled bus routes, etc.
- Need to make sure transportation is available for folks to do what service providers ask them to do in order to receive services. Only one bus/day in & out of town is not enough.
- West end and Jefferson Co. facing most severe problems – too many demands put on customers to jump hoops (meetings, appointments, trainings, etc.). We need to accommodate them.
- Transportation is a barrier to employment for low-wage earners. Point-to-point transportation would help families who need to get kids to childcare or school and parents to work – could replicate Job Lift program.
- Issues with para-transit – length of travel time for fragile elders is too long, etc.
- Need to improve access to public transportation.
- It is difficult for low-income people to get their needs met here, so they are going elsewhere to get their services (Port Angeles, or towards Seattle). Transportation then becomes an even bigger issue.
- People moving out into further reaching communities like Quilcene to find affordable housing – this causes all sorts of problems with transportation, and lack of services for them.
- We have a horribly limited bus schedule.

- May be good to create a better relationship with the transit center.

Child Care

There is difficulty accessing childcare at times people really need it. It is cost prohibitive for most people in poverty, who are trying to attend trainings or meetings or even jobs that do not provide sufficient support for child care. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- There is a major need for more daycare assistance and early childhood education (like readiness to learn, early head start and head start).
- Lack of childcare options. (Several anecdotes provided, of youth missing school or other activities in order to stay home with younger family members. Youth are being told that "their mothers will be sent to jail, if they don't watch after their younger siblings, so their mom can work or attend school", etc.)
- Few daycare options, and its very expensive.

Job Skills Training

There was significant concern about the economy and a general lack of living-wage jobs (although in some discussions there was mention of numerous vacancies going unfilled), and also about a lack of a local talent pool to fill existing vacancies. With that came significant discussion about a growing need for increased training and professional development to assist people to get and keep jobs. While some job readiness programs exist and are successful to a degree, there was much discussion about how to enhance those programs and increase likelihood for successful outcomes. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Job preparedness is lacking – people are not ready for even entry-level jobs.
- People need to be trained how to access services while being trained for work.
- Adult literacy training is needed.
- There are few reasons for kids to stay here after they graduate high school – low community pride. Seems like the ones who stay are the ones who struggle with school, drop out, or otherwise don't have higher ambitions. More could be done to train them and prepare them for job opportunities.
- Extend the Community Jobs program. Work collaboratively with other service providers and employers to make this a possibility. Six months is not long enough to help people get through all the barriers and issues they are facing. ("It used to be 9 months, and while that was better, it was not long enough, either. Perhaps investigate some sort of cost-share to extend this program.")

Alcohol and Substance Abuse

As with many of the issues discussed, problems associated with substance abuse cross over into several other need areas: mental health, physical health and wellness, ability to get and keep a job, ability to sufficiently care for children and family members, etc. There was consistent discussion of problems associated with methamphetamines, although most people agreed that alcohol continues to create

the majority of problems that are identified with the substance abuse category. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- With the intensity of the problems associated with methamphetamine use, there seems to be a lessening of public outcry about misuse of other substances, like alcohol or marijuana – to the extent of it almost being OK if people are “only drunk” or “only high on pot” – “at least they are not on meth.” There are very little identification and treatment options for people, and seems as though incarceration is the only way to receive help for some people.
- “Meth is being talked about a lot – and is a true problem, however it is less of a problem than it was 5 years ago”.
- Marijuana use is very prevalent.
- Alcohol is the number-one misused substance.
- There are not enough options for treatment. There should be more prevention and education about substance abuse issues.
- School and other institutions are in denial about the alcohol and drug problems.
- At least 70% of DSHS clients are having dependency issues.
- There are systemic challenges for DSHS and other institutions that cannot mandate urine analyses, etc.
- With alcohol and drug problems, come others, like increase in domestic violence, neglect, sexually transmitted infections and diseases, loss of employment, health problems, higher incidents of crime (thefts), etc.
- There are a lot of children in families with a substance abuse problem. Alcohol remains to be a problem in the Native American population (and with all populations)
- Meth is creating all sorts of problems – health related, neglect, crime, etc.
- This has become much more of an issue with our emergency services clients and case managed clients.
- There is a need for someone to convene a discussion with providers and auxiliary case managers to talk about this– how do we/can we get treatment, etc.?
- Substance abuse issues impacts clients’ ability to access services.
- Need prescription access programs, and support (treatment/prevention/education, etc.) related to misuse of prescription drugs.
- Providers need more education and support in dialogue with substance abuse issues.
- Need more than one source for alcohol assessment and treatment in Jefferson County.

Mental Health

Mental health-related issues permeated many of the other needs. It does not seem to have as much weight in Figures 22 through 24, but was discussed much more in relationship to other issues than the Figures may show. In particular, when we combine mental health with general healthcare access, then it was discussed (as a whole) in all of the focus groups. Specifically, there was a sense that there is a major lack of mental health services – clearly not at a capacity to meet the existing needs. This topic elicited the often-discussed debate of “what comes first?” Mental

health problems, or the myriad other stressors associated with being in poverty? It really should almost be assumed that mental health issues, like depression and anxiety are likely results of financial struggles and survival in poverty situations. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- We have a major lack of mental health services, treatment options, etc.
- There are a lot of unmet counseling needs – particularly of the homeless population.
- A lot of people are getting “mental health support” in unhealthy ways – substance use, getting what they think to be counseling from untrained people, etc.
- Problems associated with mental health permeate function of the family – and treatment of children.

Health Care Access and Services

There are myriad health-related issues that present as problems for people in poverty, for all sorts of reasons. Whether it is due to lack of accessibility or affordability, or lack of prevention and a reliance on emergency medical care, or denial of health related problems in the first place, the bottom line is that people in poverty are not getting the medical attention they need and deserve. Poverty brings with it increased risk factors, and it is no surprise that those risk factors often include risk of injury or progressively worsened health status. There is a major need for more prevention and health-maintenance options, as well as access to fast and effective treatment regardless of ability to pay. It is difficult to keep health care in general separate from mental health, but both need individual, and specialized/specific attention. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- There is a need to expand our walk-in clinic here.
- The Hospital is losing money, and it is becoming more difficult to serve low-income people with health care. This is also true of mental health services.
- The Health Center just does not have the money to do justice to all the service needs.
- Hospice care, and “end-of-life” support needs are increasing (with growing senior population, etc. some people are seeing long-time residents needing to leave their homes in order to get the assistance they need toward the end of their lives)
- There is a lack of medical coverage and healthcare for people in poverty, especially the homeless population, and particularly for mental health services. We need a better free clinic. “You are told to go to the MASH unit, but the hospital won’t accept a lot of the referrals from MASH unit.”

Senior Population Needs

The Counties are continuing to see a rise in the senior populations. With the aging of the populace comes a change in needs. Increased numbers of seniors are going without basic needs being met, there seems to be fewer seniors reaching out to/for public support services at places like the senior centers or community centers. There seems to be increased need to go to them in order to get them the services they need. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- There is a need for meals, healthcare, support, recreation, etc.

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- Increase in number of fragile seniors in the area (living alone).
- Seniors who are frail and living alone are not getting the assistance they need. Yet, the Senior Nutrition/meal programs are stalling – decreased numbers, etc.
- Even though there are increased numbers of seniors, there are fewer of them joining groups, or coming to things like nutrition, or activities. It is not a joining type of generation. It seems like there is a lot of energy put into offering senior programs, in order to respond to the growth in demographic numbers, but they are not participating anyhow, so perhaps we should refocus back to younger children or families.

Education and Schools

School enrollments are stalling, budgets are being cut, programming is dropping off, and yet the needs are still great for those children and youth who do remain in school. There was significant concern about what this impact will have on the future of the Counties – not just on the lives of the children and the families who are currently being affected. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Shrinking numbers of students in public school – “due in part to the ease of entry into the alternative high school (alt. school seen as easier way to get through high school & some students are opting to go that route, taking away students and resources from public school).”
- School district’s budget being decreased, even as needs increase, and become more complex. There is discussion of cutting back on extra-curricular programs (especially non-sports programs).
- Schools need some discretionary funds to be able to get students things they need as the circumstances arise (clothes, supplies, etc.)
- School district facing lower enrollments, and fewer dollars.
- There are a high number of high school dropouts.

Youth (Teen) Needs

Similar to the education needs, there was significant discussion about needs of teens and young adults throughout the two Counties. Discussion ranged from not enough alternative activities and support systems in place to general requests to raise the standards of expectations and respect for youth. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Increased numbers of young people to area who come for short periods of time – due perhaps to their parents being temporarily displaced, and moving back in with their families, etc.
- Not enough activities for teens & young adults (7th grade students to young adults).
- Lot of teenage kids hanging out in groups, with nothing to do.
- There are a high number of high school dropouts.
- There are few reasons for kids to stay here after they graduate high school – low community pride. Seems like the ones who stay are the ones who struggle with school, drop out, or otherwise don’t have higher ambitions. “This is an interesting dilemma, as if the “upper crust” of the youth population leave home and stay gone, while the higher risk population of youth stay behind and struggle”.

- No place to go for teens in area, there is a need for more options for them, and this is not being met.

Food Needs

Getting "basic needs" met - such as adequate and nutritional food to eat is a challenge for many in poverty. While food banks were intended to support families in temporarily rounding out their food procurement and options, there seem to be more families relying almost exclusively on the food banks for their household food. Numerous theories were put forward about why this may be the case, however the general consensus was that too many people are going without sufficient food for their families. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- There is a need for a mobile food pantry.
- There are more people using the food bank. There is a steady clientele, and people seem to be dependent on it, when in fact it is supposed to be supplemental.
- There is a need for people to be able to access food at more times than when the limited food banks are open.

Changing Demographics & Cultural Barriers (Underserved Hispanic Population)

There was some discussion about the changing demographics of the general population relating to culture and language barriers. In particular it was mentioned that within the Hispanic population, several languages are being spoken, and there are limited resources available for translation and interpretation services. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- There is a growing Hispanic population here that is very diverse, speaking multiple languages, which causes some barriers and challenges (not just English and Spanish language barriers anymore). "Roughly 24% of school population is Hispanic (although it seems that lately, we have been losing some of the Hispanic population, who are moving to places like Everett)".
- The barriers are beyond language - they involve general culture and traditions, as well.
- There is a need to educate the community about cultural awareness - ethnic/racial, economic, and other diversities.
- The Native American population has many different needs, too - culturally and otherwise. Problems with poverty, alcohol, etc.
- We all need to be more culturally competent. Our services and systems (ways of doing things) don't need to fit with us and the way we have always done business - it needs to fit with the clients.

Information Dissemination

There was a consistent message that the community needs to be better informed of all of the human service opportunities that exist, how to access them, and how to interface between service providers. It was suggested that OlyCAP be more communicative about its overall operation - from its governance structure and funding streams to its mission and vision. There was significant conversation about what improved communication and information dissemination may look like, including OlyCAP serving as a convener of community gatherings and discussions

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about topics of concern in the communities, increased print materials, publication of a master resource guide, support in launching the 2-1-1 telephone line, etc. Here is a portion of what the participants had to say:

- Provide (regular/frequent) information about the mission of OlyCAP, menu of services provided, how to access them, general guidelines, contact persons, etc. – Could be effectively done through regular mailings to all residents and posting in public places. General mailings to public should be kept simple (brief mention of what is offered and how to access services).
- Provide community with a master resource document outlining all social/human service programs in the area, including services provided, contact people, flow chart of who to contact, for what, and when, etc. This should include an explanation of how various programs interface – or work together (or not).
- Meet with Fire and Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, School Administrators, etc. to discuss programs and services available, as they often are the first point of contact by people in need. They need to know what they can refer people to. Several examples were provided of people calling 911, or calling the stations directly for social services that would be handled better by an organization geared for such. Also, when they go on calls, they may see specific in-home needs people have, such as home repair needs, and they need to know if they can refer people for assistance.

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Web-based Resources:

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<http://www.censusscope.org/index.html>

<http://www.childcarenet.org/data.htm>

<http://www.clallam.org/communities/documents/2004CommunityProfile001.pdf>

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<http://www.epodunk.com/>

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<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/county/clal.asp>

<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/county/jeff.asp>

<http://www.portangelesschools.org/news/visions-article.html?id=348>

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- City of Port Angeles
- City of Port Townsend
- Clallam County
- Clallam County Sheriff's Office
- Clallam Networks
- Clallam Transit System
- Community Advocates for Rural Elders (CARE)
- Concerned Citizens
- First Step
- Forks Abuse
- Forks Chamber of Commerce
- Housing Authority
- Healthy Youth Coalition
- Human Services Policy Center
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Jefferson County
- Jefferson County Association of Realtors
- Jefferson County Community Network

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- Jefferson County Transit
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- National Low Income Housing Coalition
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
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- Washington State Department of Health (DOH).
- Washington State Department of Health Statistics
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Washington State University Center for Real Estate Research
- West End Outreach